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August 20, 2021

Daniel was given a prophecy between 604 and 532 BC some like Jews for Jesus put the latest date at 530 BC. John was given Revelation around 96 AD. So, the Prophecy of Daniel and the Revelation of John were some 600 + years apart.

Daniel is about Israel primarily and their Messiah. It is about the 70, 7s of Daniel; the times God refers to as; the “Times of the Gentiles”.

There are two terms we need to get straight; “Times of the Gentiles” began at Nebuchadnezzar and will end at Jesus Second Coming. (Not Rapture but when Jesus sets foot on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem).

The second term is “Church Age”, which began at Pentecost and will end with the Rapture.

Almost all of Revelation is about the end times; which contains four chapters about the end of the Church Age, (Chapters 1-4) and the Tribulation that follow that end and is about the end of the “Times of the Gentiles”.

A good deal of Revelation is about things that happen in Heaven and corresponding events that take place on earth. Almost if you will a “cause and effect” scenario.

So, Daniel is given a Prophecy and John is give the Revelation of some of that Prophecy, a more complete understanding of the Prophecy as it pertains to the end times, and is directed predominately to Israel, God’s Chosen People.

Only the first 4 chapters of Revelation is about the Church, the Body of Christ as the church is called. After the first 4 chapters the Church is not spoken of as it is in Heaven with Christ.

The first 7 verses of Revelation 1 are written by John in a general sense to all the churches that God wants to speak to individually. John is describing to the readers what happened in his vision as He begins to reveal what was said to him and what he saw. He does not quote God or Christ until the 8th verse in Chapter 1. By this description I by no means want to imply that John just sat down and wrote these first 7 verses without direction from God. The entire Bible is inspired by God.

2 Timothy 3: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

We are going to study a Revelation of not only who Jesus was, and what He carried out on earth and in heaven but what is yet to come. It will take us from about 60 years after Pentecost to the Rapture of the Church, again called “the Church Age”. Revelation has more to do with the Tribulation (after Rapture) than before Rapture so all the events after the Rapture focus on the end of the “Times of the Gentiles”, an evil time throughout history.

In order to study in a systematic way, we will try to discern Biblical Doctrine as God intended. God’s Word is infallible, I am not. In the King James the word “Doctrine” is translated from the Greek as “teaching”.

Transliteration: didaskalia

Phonetic Spelling: (did-as-kal-ee'-ah)

Definition: instruction (the function or the information)

Usage: instruction, teaching.

There are two parts to teaching: the method and the information.

The information is defined as;

Policy, Principal, Dogma, Canon, Rule, Guideline, Creed or Code.

So, the frailty of my teaching methods put you all at risk, but the Doctrine, the Creed, the Principals of God’s Word are what is important.

You must take responsibility to search out the scriptures, seeking God's wisdom and make sure what I am teaching is Truth. If you find that I am in error, or we disagree on some major principal then we need to work that out through prayer and conversation. We should all remember God's advice.

2 Timothy 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

We will try not to argue over words, but we need to make sure we are all within the same doctrine or Biblical teaching.

Words mean things and we will for the most part rely on the Bible to give us those meanings. We will use a concordance to help from time to time.

We will also use what is called "first mention" practice, meaning if we have difficulty deciding a word meaning we will find the first time a specific word was used and apply that to our understanding of its meaning. However, this practice some call the "law of first mention" has its own problems of being precise. So, we will use it to help us and use the rest of God's Word to verify our conclusions by trying to understand the context of the word or phrases.

To just show a reference point as to where John was and who he was writing to is this map.



We start our study of Revelation in the most logical place by looking at Daniel 12. That makes sense, I am sure.

Daniel's book is 12 chapters long. This last chapter is written to the Nation of Israel. Daniel and other prophets tell us the whole world will feel the wrath to come both from God and Satan. But it is the Nation of Israel that most if not all Old Covenant Scripture speaks to, and Daniel is no different.

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:

Michael is always mentioned in relationship to God's People Israel. Michael is the Angel of Israel the nation.

“At that time” is speaking of the end times, more specifically around the middle of Tribulation. Michael is of course called the Archangel and has engaged in at least one struggle with Satan before, when Satan disputed over the body of Moses; Jude 1:9.

A more rigorous battle took place after that in which Michael would stand up for **“the children of thy people”**, Israel. God tells us that from that battle on, there was no room found for Satan anymore in heaven and he was cast down to the earth. A view of the outcome of that battle is recorded in Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Revelation 12 tells us that Satan is kicked out of Heaven at the midpoint in Tribulation. Up until that time we learned through scripture like Job 1, that Satan had free access to Heaven and God's Throne. We also, learned that Satan was the accuser of the brethren. Constantly going before God accusing those who claimed to be God's as liars and deceivers. In Revelation 12 we find that Michael stands up against Satan undoubtedly at God's direction and a great war arises. Satan is cast out of heaven to

earth no longer allowed to have access to God's Presence at God's Throne.

Continue from Daniel 12:1

and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

This **"time of trouble"** is a reference to the 7 years of Tribulation. The Tribulation is divided into two parts. The first 3 ½ years is the Tribulation, the second 3 ½ years is the Great Tribulation. The difference is mainly that during the first 3 ½ years of Tribulation the nation of Israel has struck a peace accord with the Anti-Christ (World Leader) and is allowed to live in peace, rebuild its temple and worship God there, even though this temple is not "authorized" by God.

Continue Daniel 12

2And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

This is a reference to the Rapture in part. My understanding is that those who are, "Believers", "Born Again Christians" who are

dead will rise from the dead to everlasting life. Then those who are alive will rise to meet the Lord in the Air.

***1 Thessalonians 4:16* For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (emphasis mine)**

I do not believe based on this scripture and others that those who died and were **NOT** Born Again will be raised up **UNTIL** the Great White Throne Judgement which is at the end of the 1000 years called the Millennial Reign of Christ.

***Revelation 20:5* But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

Continue with Daniel 12

***4* But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the **time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**

Q. Daniel is told to seal up the book until when?

“the time of the end”. That is where Revelation picks up the prophecy and opens the books a bit to help us understand at least some of Daniel’s Prophecy.

We can see this prophesy of Daniel 12:4 being fulfilled today; **“many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”** I see two issues here; “many shall run to and fro” meaning a dynamic ability to travel or a vibrant ability to search things out.

The second is **“and knowledge shall be increased”**. Some say this knowledge is head knowledge, human based, scientific, not of a spiritual nature. Others say it is Spiritual based knowledge that will increase, God allowing more broad understanding of the end times we are living in.

I used to be in the first school of thought about knowledge increasing in the scientific and advanced Artificial Intelligence, but now find myself leaning toward the second; increase in Spiritual knowledge. To be candid, I think both are happening, but I am more interested in the Spiritual understanding that God is making available to us.

Continue Daniel 12

5Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. 6And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? 7And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his

left hand unto heaven, and swear by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

We won't go into who these two angels are as there is wide speculation with little solid evidence. However, the Angel on the or above the water is likely a Christophany; an appearance of Spiritual Jesus Christ before taking up His earthly body. God's intent is to bring a scattering of the power of the holy people or chosen or sacred people, meaning Israel. Within all of Israel there are those who have wanted to walk with God and have not faltered other than missing the Messiah, which is a pretty big miss. They are still God's Chosen people, and He loves them.

There will be many who will die in their ignorance, but others will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus the Christ. They will be scattered through a vast array of cataclysmic earthly events, and they will suffer greatly at the hand of Satan and the Anti-Christ.

This **"time, times and an half"** is a reference to the Great Tribulation the last 3 ½ years of Tribulation. The last part of vs 6 says; **"all these things shall be finished"**.

What things? The prophecy of Daniel as to the end times; but there were no specifics on how these things will end. Not until John is given Revelation about these things, the end times.

8And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Daniel was told specifically to seal up these words meaning any understanding of these events.

Quite the opposite happens with John.

Revelation 22: 10And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Daniel was given this prophecy about 2500 years ago and John was given Revelation around 96 AD, the revealing of these words or understanding of these words about 1925 years ago.

But until recent times many of the visions of even Revelation seem unlikely. Recent events however allow us to see anew what John and Daniel were given as prophecy. Prophecy that is being fulfilled in our time in our sight.

Daniel 12 continued:

10Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. 11And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. 13But go thou thy way till the end

be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Daniel is told that somehow in the end times some people will understand, and others will not. It is not divided along racial lines, or along male or female lines, nor national borders it is going to be clearly divided along “Believer” and “Non-Believer” lines.

*“and none of the wicked shall understand; **but the wise shall understand**”*

As JD Farag puts it, Revelation is about the Salvation of the Jewish Nation. And that is quite true in part, but Revelation takes in the Rapture, God’s Wrath, Satan’s wrath, and a lot of visions that will challenge the earthly mind. One thing is clear, God wins and those who follow Him will win as well. There will be millions who lose and lose for eternity. Not by God’s choice but by their own choice.

August 29, 2021

[\(Daniel 12:1-13\)](#)

1The 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:

This Book is called by God a “Revelation of Jesus Christ”. This Revelation of Jesus has as some of its segments, things “which must shortly come to pass”.

Q. This message to John was signified by what?

This first sentence is from God to John, we know that because in the first sentence it says, “which God gave unto him”.

How did God give it to John or how did He “signify” it? The Greek defines the word “signify” as

Transliteration: sémainó

Phonetic Spelling: (say-mah'-ee-no)

Definition: to give a sign

Usage: I signify, indicate, give a sign, make known.

Somehow God made known to John that this message was to him, from God and was to be shared with others.

Q. Was it the voice of God or how does John say that he received this message?

“...he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:”

2Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

The “who” here is John. John has as his testimony the “record of the word of God”, that being the Old Testament documents they

called the Law and the Prophets. Plus, he also had many if not all the letters we now call “books” of the New Testament written by the Apostles including some by Paul. Relevant as well was what John saw with his own eyes. But perhaps the most important thing of his testimony is the things he heard Jesus say with His own lips. That accumulation of evidence is John’s personal testimony.

John was the oldest living Apostle when he wrote this message from God to us. He is the only Apostle that died of old age even though Nero tried to have him killed.

3Blessed 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.

We have studied the 3 Letters John wrote called 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. John was adamant in those letters the importance of obedience to God’s Commandments and the significance of being obedient to show our love.

1 John 2: 3And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

John 14:21 ^aHe that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and ^ohe that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Obedience is a big deal in God's realm. As we look at these 7 churches see if we can understand the basis of all their problems that are revealed. Then consider our churches of today and our individual lives as followers of Christ. How is our obedience????

John Greet the Seven Churches

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;**

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,**

Verses 4 and 5 clearly name the Godhead. "Which is, which was, and which is to come" is clearly God the Father.

The Seven Spirits before the Throne is clearly God the Holy Spirit.

And in vs 5 **"from Jesus Christ"** is clearly God the Son.

So, this communication to John is by the Triune God of the Universe that He as the 3; Father, Son and Holy Spirit that have existed for ever and shall ever exist for eternity.

Why these 7 churches? It is a bit of a mystery; some say it was based on a postal route that included these 7 churches and that

the process of getting this letter out to them fit. That may be but with God all things are possible, and these 7 churches were a representation of likely what was happening throughout the new church.

It also appears to be a road map of what is called “church history” in that many of these exact things befell the home fellow ship churches and ensuing manmade churches over 2000+ years ending with the last home church of Laodicea the “luke warm” church. Somewhat symptomatic of today’s larger body of denominational churches and many local churches that perhaps have lost their way. Not all for sure, but many.

6And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 7Behold, 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.

Verse 6 tells us that we have been manifestly transformed from mere men and women to become “kings and priests unto God the Son and his Father”. The “God” in this verse speaks of God the Son, Jesus Christ, but it also has the Kingship and Priesthood to glorify the Godhead.

7Behold, 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.

Undoubtedly this again is a reference to ONE of the Godhead, that being Jesus the Son. I think this is a reference to His second coming, NOT the Rapture. The main reason being that at the Rapture all the living and the dead (believers) are changed in a twinkling of an eye.

1 Corinthians 15: [51](#)Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52](#)In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The Church can be found in the first 4 chapters of Revelation. There are 22 chapters in Revelation, so God is allotting 18% of this entire book to the Church and 82% to Israel and God's Wrath upon the world and the future events.

It strikes me that Rapture is so fast that the world is left with a grand mystery of what happened to all those people. I think it will be of use to the Anti-Christ to declare a number of lies probably including "aliens took them".

Vs 7 seems to show a worldwide view of Jesus returning, and a harsh reality for Israel as they see the "One" meaning their own Messiah; they pierced returning to His chosen people and land

Israel. So, for that reason I think it is about Jesus's second coming.

8I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Alpha and Omega the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet. Obvious reference to the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

John's Vision on Patmos

9I 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.**

John was imprisoned by King Domitian on the Isle of Patmos a small 100 sq mile island off the coast of Greece. It is now a destination resort.

John, who is our brother in the Lord, says he was there because of the **“Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”**

Just as John lived with great patience he is suggesting that we do as well.

Christians were persecuted by various means by the Anti-Christians Roman rulers. Domitian perhaps one of the worst of the lot sentenced John to death and he was put on Patmos.

Prisoners there had to have their food provided by non-prisoners off the island otherwise they would starve to death. Most on the island prisoners died of starvation or assaults by other prisoners.

Domitian was hated by the Roman Senate. When Domitian died in about 95 AD the Roman Senate was overjoyed and said this:

“Upon his death, the Roman Senate was:

overjoyed . . . [assailed] the dead emperor with the most insulting and stinging kind of outcries . . . Finally they passed a decree that his inscriptions should everywhere be erased, and all record of him obliterated (Rolfe 1992: 385).

This decree, the damnatio memoriae, destroyed all the statues and inscriptions of Domitian, such as Domitian’s arch at Hierapolis and dedicatory inscriptions at the Temple of the Sabastoi in Ephesus (Friesen 1993a: 34).”

“Domitian was born October 24, AD 51, and murdered September 18, AD 96. He was cremated and his ashes, mingled with those of his niece Julia, were buried in the temple of Gens Flavia on the Quairinal Hill in the sixth Region, built over the house where he was born (Jones 1992: 1; Richardson 1992: 181).....”

<https://biblearchaeology.org/research/new-testament-era/3080-the-king-and-i-the-apostle-john-and-emperor-domitian-part-1>

10I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

As non-believers there is a predominate controlling part of mankind and that is the brain. It is centered on man’s knowledge,

the things that are prized and sequestered in the mind. For a non-believer it would be very difficult if not impossible without God's intervening to be in anything other than the human mind set. John however, being a believer found it more to his born-again nature to be in the Spirit, conversing with God on a level unsuited for the human mind.

When we are in the Spirit communications can go both ways. I find it most profitable when I am the listener and God is the speaker.

That is John's condition being a listener at this point and he hears the ring tone in his spirit coming from God the Son.

11Saying, 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.

God and His Angels don't waste much time with small talk or as we call it chit-chat. Words are important so God's message gets right to the point.

The 7 churches like most have many problems and only a few virtues that God commended. Remember how quickly these churches began to fall away from the truth and obedience. John is

still alive; Paul is fully engaged in the ministry that God gave him. Jesus has been gone from earth about 60 years at this time. How fast we fall from Grace!

12And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13And 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.

John was either transported to Heaven or was given a vision while standing on Patmos. The key is not the location but what John sees.

The identity is determined by the clue: “one like unto the Son of man,”. Gold for example is usually associated with Kingship.

If we search scripture, we will find an identity as to who the “Son of man”, is.

Matthew 24:30

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Based on that clue who would you say the Son of Man is?

Here is another clue, from Jesus own lips.

Matthew 26:64 "You have said it yourself," Jesus answered. "But I say to all of you, from now on you will see

the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

There is little doubt that the one standing in-the-midst of the Candle sticks is none other than Jesus the Christ. He is also the one speaking to John.

The clothing described in vs 13 if we look at the attire of a Priest, we will find this quite similar.

Vs13....."clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a **golden girdle**."

Exodus 28:4 And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and **a girdle**: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Not just **"a girdle"** but a **"golden girdle"** Jesus was wearing.

We know that Jesus is the High Priest for eternity as well as King. So, to be dressed in this fashion is revealing to the Jewish Nation and to believers.

As to standing amongst the 7 candles it represents the 7 churches to be listed. The list of churches in this statement gives another clear sign that Jesus is the High Priest and is among His scattered yet united local home churches, on earth. The united part is that they all sought Jesus, some to a better extent than

others. Obedience to God's Word was both a curse and a blessing to some of these home churches.

The true uniting of God's Church I do not believe will be a man-made ecumenical council of churches. It is a Spiritual uniting, one that needs no man-made establishment; it is God Borne, God Driven and God Coordinated. I believe that the only worldwide ecumenical coalition of churches will be under the control and creation of Satan; it will be the One World Church described later in Revelation.

14His head and *his* hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

There is no race as in the differentiation of races on earth; Christ is not described by skin color but by attributes that are common among all mankind; IE hair was white. This is an indication of age or maturity, steeped in wisdom, in that Jesus like God are eternal and have existed since before time began. Unlike mankind, grey or white hair was usually accompanied by a broken down or well-used body, that is not the case with our Redeemer. That is born out in the next phrase; "and His eyes were as a flame of fire". This description embodies our Lord as one who is Omniscient, knowing all things revealed by piercing fire like eyes.

As a note, anytime we see the word, “as or like” it is going to be a “simile or metaphor.”

Similes and metaphors are linguistic function that allows one to describe something that is being seen or described in a way that the hearer can understand it as a visual picture; “figurative language drawing comparisons”. Other terms would be “symbol’s, Image’s, Allegory’s or Expressions”.

15And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Other than Jesus eyes, we are given no description of His face. We instead move to His feet other than His hands the only other remarkable feature on what John was seeing. His feet are described as “fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace”. When metal is melted at high temperature the colors given off are dramatic. What John is seeing is the feet of one who has been tested by the most extreme of situations; Jesus was tested and found to be the “perfect sacrificial lamb”. His appearance reflects that outcome of His trials. He is the victor; like in;

*Daniel 3: **19**Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated **seven times hotter than usual** **20**and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. **21**So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and*

*other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. **22**The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, **23**and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.*

***24**Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"*

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

***25**He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the **fourth looks like a son of the gods.**"*

***26**Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"*

*So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, **27**and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.*

***28**Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. **29**Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."*

As a side note this description of Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego is a type and shadow of Israel in Tribulation. While the three stand for what was going to happen to Israel during Tribulation, they are joined by a 4th party. That being Jesus, the Savior of Israel. Jesus's power will be with Israel as it is decimated and tested by fire from Anti-Christ and the Wrath of God is poured out on the earth. He will walk through their trial with them and protect them. In the end those who believe in Christ will appear unscathed by the fire of persecution.

Also, in this event Daniel is not seen, he has been removed just like the church will be removed and not endure the Tribulation.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

Read 2 Timothy 3

September 5, 2021

16And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Again, who better to tell us what these “seven stars” represent that God’s Own declaration.

Revelation 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.

Some interpret the word “angels” as bishops or pastors. I find nothing specific to show that it is more of a deduction than a written declaration. God calls them “angels. I do believe a case can be made that God has protecting angels that are given to churches, and people of God. If you chose to think of them as the bishop’s or pastors or God’s Heavenly Angels, I don’t believe it will affect our doctrinal accuracy. We’ll get into this a bit deeper shortly.

As to the “twoedged sword” in vs 16, it is the Words that came out of Jesus Mouth. The very Words we study in Scripture every day.

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

17And 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:

An analogy by John showing his response at seeing Christ for the second time since His Resurrection. He was so incredibly overcome by being in Christ's presence again, he may have fainted or at least fallen to the ground.

God has a variety of self-given names that depict His attributes. One of the earliest examples is when Moses asked God who Moses should tell the people of Israel who sent him with the tablets of the Law.

God's response was brief.

Most of the Old Testament God is identified as either God, The Lord or the Lord God. It isn't until Exodus that God expounded on His identity through His Name.

Exodus 3: [13](#)And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? [14](#)And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. [15](#)And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Another clear declaration from God was to the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 41: Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Throughout the Bible God has used a variety of names to describe His nature.

These are the names of God in the Old Testament:

<https://www.godisreal.today/names-of-god/>

Yahweh

The self-existent One. He has always existed and will always exist. You can always rely on Him because He is your eternal source of strength.

(Genesis 2:4, Isaiah 40:3; 10; 1 Samuel 1:20; Exodus 6:1-4, 3:1-22)

Adonai

God is the Lord over all. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, He reigns forever. Therefore you find safety in Him and Him alone.

(Genesis 15:2, Judges 6:15, Malachi 1:6, Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 2:4, 8:1, 97:5, 136:3; Isaiah 1:24, 6:1; Romans 10:9)

Yahweh-Maccaddeshem

The Lord your sanctifier. He forgives your sins and His Holy Spirit works in your life to become like He is: pure, loving and true.

(Exodus 31:13, Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28)

Yahweh-Rohi

The Lord my shepherd. He cares for you, the way a shepherd tends his sheep. He cares for you and leads you to still waters and green pastures.

(Psalm 23, 80:1, 95:7, Isaiah 40:11, Jeremiah 31:10, Ezekiel 34:12, 23)

Yahweh-Shammah

The Lord who is present. He never leaves you, nor forsakes you. He is with you forever. Your best friend, who never betrays you.

(Ezekiel 48:35, Genesis 28:15, Ezekiel 48:35, Psalm 23:4, 46:1, 139:7-12, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Amos 5:14)

Yahweh-Rapha

The Lord our healer. “By His stripes were are healed” declares the Bible. Jesus Christ died to give you life. Not only was God the healer in the Old Testament, but Jesus Christ revealed the healing heart of God for all of us, more than ever.

(Exodus 15:26, Exodus 15:26, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 6:2, 41:4, 103:3, 147:3, Isaiah 19:22, 30:36, 57:18-19, Jeremiah 3:22; 17:14, 30:17)

Yahweh-Tsidkenu

The Lord our righteousness. When we believe in Jesus Christ, He becomes our righteousness. He forgives our [sins](#) and washes us with His blood.

(Jeremiah 23:6, Genesis 15:6, Jeremiah 23:6, Psalm 4:1, 5:8, 24:5, 31:1, 36:10, 71:15, 89:16)

Yahweh-Jireh

The Lord will provide. Jesus Christ said that Father cares for us and we never need to worry about provision. He is our source of life, in every way.

(Genesis 22:13-14)

Yahweh-Nissi

The Lord our banner. The Lord gives us the victory in spiritual warfare. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord raises a banner of His love over us and covers us. He wages war on our behalf and makes us more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.

(Exodus 17:15)

Yahweh-Shalom

The Lord is peace. Whenever there are storms in your life, hide in Him. He is your shelter in the storm. He gives peace beyond understanding, even when circumstances are chaotic. He is our shelter and our shield.

(Judges 6:24)

Yahweh-Sabaoth

The Lord of Hosts. The Bible mentions myriads of [angels](#), who wage war against the armies of hell, who try to destroy mankind. Jesus Christ is the Lord of hosts, the Captain of the armies of [heaven](#).

(Isaiah 6:1-3, 1 Samuel 1:3, 17:45; 2 Samuel 6:2, 7:26-27; 1 Chronicles 11:9; Haggai 1:5)

Yahweh-Ghmolah

The God of Recompense. The Lord says in Romans 12 “vengeance is mine, I will repay.” We should never avenge others for what they do to us, but leave it in God’s hands.

(Jeremiah 51:6)

Elohim

God is creator, powerful and mighty, Lord of lords. He is the Lord Most High, stronger and mightier than anyone or anything. When you face impossible circumstances or adversaries, now that your God is stronger.

(Gen. 1:1, 17:7, Ps 19:1 Jer. 31:33)

El-Elyon

The most high God. Do not fear the enemy who tries to intimidate you. Know that your God is the Most High God. There is none above Him. Jesus Christ is exalted high above every name.

(Genesis 14:17-20, Deuteronomy 26:19, Isaiah 14:13-14)

El-Gibhor

Mighty God. The Lord is mighty to save. His arm is not too short. Whatever problem you are facing, know that your God is El-Gibhor, MIGHTY!

(Isaiah 9:6)

El-Olam

The everlasting God. God is eternal, while your problems are temporary. His love will never change. His promises are true. Build on Him, who is eternal and do not focus on your temporary situations. He will show you His great and eternal goodness.

(Isaiah 40:28-31)

El-Roi

The strong one who sees. When you feel lonely and abandoned by people, know that God is with you. He sees you and He knows you. He hears the cry of your heart and He loves you more than you can imagine. He will lead you through and fill your heart with His praise.

(Genesis 16:13)

El-Shaddai-Rohi

God Almighty, the mighty One of Jacob. God is not just another 'god' like the countless idols. He truly is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth.

(Gen. 17:1, 49:24, Ps. 91:1, 132:2, 5)

El-Chuwl

The God who gave birth. God is our Creator and our Father. He saw us and He loved us, even before we were born. He has a plan for your life and if you walk with Him, He will fulfill His dreams over your life and amaze you.

(Psalm 139:13-18)

El-Deah

God of knowledge. Wisdom comes from the Lord. Man tries to become wise apart from God, ut ends up in foolishness. When we fear God and keep His commandments, to love one another, we will know Him as He is and His wisdom will guide us.

(1 Samuel 2:3; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Cor. 1:18-31)

Attiyq Youm

The Ancient of Days. God is eternal. He was before the beginning of time. Therefor He has all authority. Every knee bows before Him.

(Daniel 7:9, 13, 14)

The first time we see the author of all things is in Genesis 1:1 where God declares “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”. In Hebrew, the name “God” is Elohim, and it is plural. That is a clear sign of Elohim referring to the Trinity of the God Head, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We will now see more clearly who is addressing John:

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.

Was God the Father ever dead? How about God the Holy Spirit? No, the only one of the Godhead that died a physical death was the only part of the Godhead that took on a physical body, Jesus the Messiah. We also know that Jesus is given the keys of hell and of death. At one point Satan had these keys but when Satan fell, he was stripped of his powers from heaven. He was given for a time keys to hell in that he could summon his demons to terrorize the world, but that is short lived.

19Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

In life we can all write an account the things we have seen, and the things that are currently in our lives, but it is beyond the power of man to see the future in a way that makes him or her a prophet or prophetess of God. That only happens by the power of God. There have been many charlatans over the years; people who claim some mystical power to see the future. I have questioned whether Satan can see the future and have concluded that he cannot.

*Isaiah 6: 9Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, **and there is none like me,***

10Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Satan can do a couple of things that make it seem like he can tell the future. He can read and he can make calculated guesses. The Bible and earlier the Law and the Prophets were not hidden documents, they were studied and read aloud. Satan is quite capable of reading or at least listening, so he knows God's overall plan. I doubt he knows the intricacies of God's plan or otherwise he would not have challenged God.

Satan may be an idiot, but he is not stupid he can put thoughts into a non-believer's mind and manipulate certain things by that

power. He cannot put evil thoughts into the mind of a believer. We are out of bounds for Satan, and he could only do that with God's permission, and I doubt whether God would allow His chosen to be used like that. If you are having evil thought look no further than your own mind that you and I have allowed to be polluted with the things of this world that are worldly and not Godly. Those things will continually haunt you until you take "Every thought captive", as we are instructed by God.

So, when Jesus tells John to write what he has seen, what he is seeing and what is to come it is by the Power of God through the Holy Spirit that John is able to write what is to come.

In addition to visions or being taken up, God as He sees fit can explain a vision like the seven lamp stands and the seven stars.

20The 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.

In this explanation by God, we see that the seven candlesticks are the seven home churches, not something like the seven home churches but the actual representation in heaven of each of the seven home churches. The metaphorical representation is that

Jesus is walking in and among these 7 specific home churches, watching over them with an angel assigned to each home church.

As an actual representation of the individual home churches, then the seven stars are called the seven individual angels: one for each home church. I don't think you need to look for a deeper meaning than that. Apparently, each of these home groups that were called churches had an assigned Angel from God. Some take that as pastors, but I think that is a stretch.

From Strong's Concordance

Transliteration: ekklesia

Phonetic Spelling: (ek-klay-see'-ah)

Definition: an assembly, a (religious) congregation

Usage: an assembly, congregation, church; **the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.**

In the definition of church from the original Greek we see the array of what man thinks of today as churches or religious gatherings. The point once again being there is only ONE TRUE CHURCH of GOD, founded by JESUS CHRIST and that is only called THE CHURCH, to the exclusion of all man-made religions.

Many Christian churches small (c) have tried to walk in obedience to the manner Jesus set up His Church but often fail in true obedience. Man, always wants to put his spin and take on

everything Godly, and I am no exception. So again, it is up to you to study to show yourself approved of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.