

## To the Angels of seven Churches that are in Asia

Question of the week: Why does Jesus call the seven pastors in revelations, angels?

There is another question that arises when discussing Revelations use of the term “angels”. That is, was He was referring to the “pastors” of these congregations as angels or was He talking about the “seven spirits” or to their “guardian angels”. Each view has support among the commentaries.

[Revelation 1 :11-13, 16](#) 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**. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw **seven golden candlesticks**; 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... **16** And 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.



[Revelation 1:20-2:1](#) **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**. **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**;

\*The seven stars are **messengers** of the seven assemblies,” [Young's Literal Translation](#) (4 Bibles)

\*The seven stars are the **ministers** of the seven Churches” [Weymouth New Testament](#) (1 Bible)

\*The seven stars are the **angels** of the seven churches (23 Bible translations)

(NT) The KJV translates Strong's G32 in the following manner: [angel](#) (179x), [messenger](#) (7x).

(OT) Angel: Lexicon :: Strong's H4397 - *mal'ak*

messenger, representative

1. messenger
2. angel
3. the theophanic angel

The KJV translates Strong's H4397 in the

following manner: [angel](#) (111x), [messenger](#) (98x), [ambassadors](#) (4x), [variant](#) (1x).

**מַלְאָךְ** *mal'âk*, mal-awk'; from an unused root meaning to despatch as a deputy; a messenger; specifically, of God, i.e. **an angel (also a prophet, priest or teacher):—ambassador, angel, king, messenger.**

Strong's Definitions ἄγγελος *ággelos*, ang'-el-os; from ἀγγέλλω *aggéllō* (probably derived from [G71](#); compare [G34](#)) (to bring tidings); a messenger; especially an "angel"; **by implication, a pastor**:—angel, messenger.

[Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers](#) The angels have been understood by some to **be guardian angels; but it is difficult to reconcile words of warning and reproof...** The **more generally adopted view is that the angel is the chief pastor or bishop of the Church.**

## Human Messengers

[Matthew 11 : 7, 10](#) **7** And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning **John**,.... **10** For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my **messenger** [G32](#) before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

[Luke 7 :22, 24](#) **22** Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and **tell John what things ye have seen and heard**; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. ...**24 And when the messengers** [G32](#) **of John were departed**, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

[Luke 9 : 51-52](#) And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent **messengers** [G32](#) before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

[James 2 : 25](#) Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, [G32](#) and had sent *them* out another way?

## Ambassadors

[II Corinthians 5: 20](#) Now then **we are ambassadors** for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

## Stars referring to a Teacher of Salvation

[Daniel 12: 3](#) and **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. [Daniel 11 : 35](#) and some of them of **understanding** shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to **make them white**, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.

[I Corinthians 15: 42-43](#) There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

**Group Discussion: Did Jesus call the pastors angels and, if so, why?**

The seven churches symbolize the seven stages of Church history:				
	Church	Meaning of its name	Symbolized period	Dates
1	Ephesus	Desirable	Apostolic Church	33 - 100
2	Smyrna	Fragrant when crushed	Persecuted Church	100 - 313
3	Pergamos	Raised up city	Compromising Church	313 - 538
4	Thyatira	Savor of labor	Corrupt Church	538 - 1517
5	Sardis	That which remains	Reformation Church	1517 - 1755
6	Philadelphia	Brotherly love	Awakening Church	1755 - 1844
7	Laodicea	Judging the people	Today's Church	1844 - End