

A Tale of Seven Churches: Introduction

Revelation 1:17-20



John's Revelation



- *“The Lord’s Day”* would imply that it was the first day of the week and John was worshipping.
- John was spiritually open and receptive to what Jesus would have him hear.
- His vision was to be addressed to seven specific churches located in: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
- Some believe that each of the churches represents a period in church history.

The Seven Stars



- The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.
- The word angel in the Greek simply means messenger.
- The angels of these churches may actually be their human overseers or pastors.
- The pastor of a church is responsible for the congregation's collective obedience and behavior, but the pastor's primary responsibility is to God.

The Seven Lampstands



- The seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- All the lampstands were made of gold which signifies purity.
- The church is not a lamp, it is a lamp stand.
- Light does not come from the stand it comes from the lamp.
- The light that shines from the church must be Jesus.
- When the light is removed then the lampstand is no longer of any use.

Conclusion

- Within the framework of the scriptures, when the word lampstand was used, Jews immediately thought of the Menorah.
- Revelation is not talking about seven lamps that make up the lampstand, but seven individual lampstands.
- Christ, who is in the center, is the unifying force of the lampstands.

