

Revelation's Seven Churches and You

Commentary for September 1, 2007 — Revelation, Wisdom, and Christ

The seven churches in chapters 2 and 3 of the Book of Revelation are introduced by this month's [September 2007 Newsletter](#) and are analyzed as the topic of Dr. Martin's presentation "The Seven Churches of Revelation Today."

The Book of Revelation is an unveiling (which is what "revelation" means in Greek) of secrets that God the Father had hidden until the messages were given through Christ and transmitted by angels to the apostle John who wrote it down for us to read at this present day. This is a communication direct from the mind of God to your mind. Always keep that fact in mind.¹

History involves properly understanding events, times, and places that have occurred in the past. Prophecy in general and the Book of Revelation specifically involve properly understanding events, times, and places that will occur in the future. It is difficult enough to understand the past. It is an impossible task to understand the future unless it is revealed to you. God states in the very first verse: **"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass ..."** (Revelation 1:1). The phrase **"his servants"** include you and me, and everyone who has read the Book of Revelation since it was written.

Reading is one thing. Understanding is another. It takes wisdom to understand prophecy. Wisdom is a gift from God that can be obtained, but it is something that must be sought after and worked for with all the getting of wisdom. When one gets wisdom, understanding about God and His word is an added benefit that God gives to those who seek wisdom.²

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get [acquire] wisdom: and with all your getting [acquiring] get understanding."

• *Proverbs 4:7*

The acquisition of wisdom will yield understanding so that proper decisions can be made, especially in times of trouble. The world may never know of your wisdom or your understanding, but God and His wisdom will guide your paths in life and in your troubles.

"I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you go, your steps shall not be straitened [hampered]; and when you run, you shall not stumble."

• *Proverbs 4:11–12*

Reading and understanding prophecy and the Book of Revelation is not just about avoiding difficulties and problems in your life. If that is your motivation (as it has been for me and many of us in the past), then you are wasting your time, and I personally doubt God will honor such a motivation. We are called to service. The Bible is not to be used as your personal escape hatch from life, either now or in the future. The Bible is to be used and studied so you can help others. Help for your self, alone, should be an afterthought and a side benefit if God chooses to do so. Remember Hebrews chapter 11, most of those who died in faith, died under extremely unpleasant circumstances. Consider it a blessing from God if you or your loved ones who are believers die under quiet circumstances.

1. If perchance you do not believe that fact, then why are you bothering to read this at all?
2. Of course, wisdom has nothing directly to do with obtaining salvation. Wisdom is something to be worked for, as are all things related to rewards. Salvation, however, is an unsolicited gift from God.

You were created by God the Father to serve. To properly serve you must learn, and to learn you must study God's Word, which comes through Jesus Christ, the principal person who reveals all truth and love to mankind (Revelation 1:1, above). It is up to you what you do with the time given to you to study, learn, and serve.

Your very reward in the Kingdom of God is determined by your life now. With God, good intentions (when motivated by God's Spirit) mean much and yield great reward. Great deeds when motivated by fleshly vanity count small and yield little spiritual reward.

The entire world will benefit from Christ's revelation. This is stated in Luke 2:32 when the infant Jesus was presented at the Temple (after Jesus' circumcision and Mary's purification), a man named Simeon blessed Jesus in the Temple:

"For mine eyes have seen your [God's] salvation, Which you have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

• *Luke 2:30–32*

"A light to lighten the Gentiles" literally opens with meaning when read from the Greek, as expressed in the New American Standard Version where Christ is literally proclaimed by Simeon to be: **"a light of revelation [Greek from: *apokalupsis*, to reveal] to the Gentiles [the nations], and for glory to your people Israel."**³

The entire life of Christ is to be a "revelation" (an *apokalupsis*), as is the spoken act of revealing through the angel in the Book of Revelation. This is done for a purpose. Read it. Believe it:

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge [acknowledgement] of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power."

• *Ephesians 1:17–19*

This is God's desire for you to know, to understand, and to experience in the future. What you are doing now in life is not futile, no matter how mundane, how seemingly useless, however powerless you feel (and probably are by worldly standards). The life you live at this moment and in the future is for your edification and for your growth.

I do not know whether any of us in 2007 will see the events prophesied to the *ekklesias* in chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation. John only saw them in vision. The rest of mankind since then have only read them as words on paper and understood so far as God opened their minds. Soon people shall experience the events prophesied in the messages to the seven *ekklesias*. Soon the events shall transpire and then they will be "past" events, no longer future. I am confident that all will be amazed how precisely God fulfills those prophecies.

The Book of Revelation is an "opening up" of information to mankind. It is Christ's "revelation" to the world to announce His return. It is the framework upon which many, many other prophecies of the Bible are attached. They will make much greater sense when understood in light of that framework. Read, enjoy and learn from Dr. Martin's presentation of "The Seven Churches of Revelation Today."

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com

3. See Isaiah 9:2 (the closest reference), 42:6, 49:6, 9, 51:4, Matthew 4:16; Acts 13:47 and 26:23 to learn the full impact of what Simeon is saying.