

Revelation of YAHSHUA to the Churches of Asia (part 1)  
(Revelation 1)

The book of Revelation is the unveiling of the divine mysteries YAHSHUA gives the apostle John in the Island of Patmos; Patmos is situated off the West-coast of Turkey and the continent of Asia. John was sent to the Island in chains to die under the authority of the Emperor Domitian, under whose rule the Christians were severely persecuted. They tried to kill John by throwing him into a cauldron of boiling oil; Tertullian (160-225) is said to be the first to describe it as a historical event; when John didn't die but continued preaching from the cauldron, he was sent to the Island of Patmos, a dreary and isolated place.

Revelation opens with a blessing (1:3): **Blessed is the one who reads and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near;** and closes with a promised blessing (22:7): **Look, I am coming quickly! Blessed is the one who keeps the prophetic words of this book.** These are the conditions found in these verses: (1) Blessed is the man that reads (2) Blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy (3) blessed are all who keep those things which are written therein (to keep is to give heed to, to observe, to pay regard to).

The partakers of the book of Revelation (1:4, 11) are the seven churches of Asia, which represent a prophetic time of the church from the apostolic times to the end of the church age. It will be interesting to note here that the number seven appears in Revelation forty-nine times which 7x7 is. The number seven speaks of perfection and completion as in seven musical notes makes the musical scale; seven days constitutes a week; at the fall of Jericho, there were seven priests, seven trumpets, on the seventh day people marched seven times etc.

Symbolizing lampstands, the church of Christ is the light bearer of the world (Rev.1:20; Ephesians 5:8; Phil. 2:15). YAHSHUA standing at the middle of the lampstands symbolizes the light that His church reflects to the world. This book is the revelation of YAHSHUA, as we read in the messages to the churches. To the church of **Ephesus** He revealed Himself as the One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand and Who walks among the seven gold lampstand. Here He is the light and the head of His Church. To the church of **Smyrna** He reveals Himself as The First and the Last, the One Who was dead and came out to life. To the church of Smyrna, YAHSHUA reveals Himself as the Victorious Savior and life giver, Who had purchased His Bride with His blood; Who has power over death. To the church of **Pergamum** He reveals Himself as the sharp, two edged sword. To the church of Pergamum He reveals Himself as the powerful living Word of YAHWEH; He penetrates as far as to divide the soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; He is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart (Heb. 4:12 b). To the church of **Thyatira** He reveals Himself as the Son of YAHWEH, the One whose eyes are like a fiery flame, and whose feet are like fine bronze. To the church of Thyatira He reveals Himself as the Omniscient judge, Who will judge with righteousness. To the church of **Sardis** He reveals Himself as the One Who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. This revelation to the church of Sardis means the completeness, perfection and fullness of the work of YAHWEH'S Spirit. To the church of

**Philadelphia** He reveals Himself as the holy One, the true One, the One Who has the key of David, Who opens and no one will close, and closes and no one opens. He reveals Himself as the sovereign and holy One YAHWEH. To the church of **Laodicea** YAHSHUA reveals Himself as the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of YAHWEH'S creation; He reveals Himself to the church of Laodicea as the creator and the consummator of all things and time.

### **The Person in the Book**

Revelation has to do with the deity, dignity, sovereignty of YAHSHUA, His fulfillment of prophecy for the Bride and for the world in power and in holiness. Here He is described first as the faithful witness (1:5). He said, I came to the world to bear witness of the truth (John 18:37); while on earth YAHSHUA was His Father's Faithful witness of the truth; He Himself was Truth! And showed in the manner in which He lived, His teachings, in His actions of deeds of power. As the Begotten of the Dead, YAHSHUA retains supremacy in rank and dignity over all in heaven and earth and beneath the earth. YAHSHUA after exercising power over death, He took His rightful place in heaven and was exalted to a position above all (Ephesians 1:19-22); someday every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord, to the glory of YAHWEH the Father (Phil. 2:8-11). Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood be glory and the power and the majesty and the dominion throughout the ages and forever and ever. (1:5, 6); His love is not only in the past, but it is a love that is continuous to the end of time. He loosed us from the power of sin with His blood and continues to guide us unto His holiness. As Prince of the kings of the earth (1:5) He shall reign forever and ever (Rev. 11:15). He is the King of the ages (I Tim. 1:17); the King of glory (Psalm24:7); the King of saints (Rev. 15:3); and the Kings of kings (Rev. 19:16); and He is the mighty Prince of the kings of the earth (Daniel 8:25).

Twice He says I am the Alpha and the Omega – the beginning and the end; the first and the last; He is the eternal "I AM"; He is before all things, the One Who created all things (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16); He controls all things (Hebrews 1:3), and will consummate all things (Ephesians 1:10). He is the Almighty, I AM. . . the Lord, Who is, and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty (Rev. 1:8). The description of YAHSHUA found in the book of Revelation shows His deity, sovereignty and power: "His head. . . His hairs, His eyes... His feet ... His voice... His right hand... His mouth. .. His countenance" (1: 14-16). His hair white like wool, as snow, is compared to Daniel's description as "The Ancient of days". Our Lord is seen by John here as the Judge ready to bring judgment to the world. His eyes as a flame of fire (1:14) speaks of His omniscience; before Him all lays bare; His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace(1:15) speaks of His righteous judgment; His voice as the sound of many waters (1:15) speaks of power and authority when the dead will hear His voice and will be resurrected to life as He said, A time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come out- those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of judgment ( John 5:28); and He had in His right hand seven stars (1:16); these are His faithful messengers. Out of His mouth went a sharp two edged sword (1:16) This is His powerful word described in Hebrews as sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints and marrow, it is a judge of ideas and thoughts of the heart (4:12). His countenance was as the sun shines in his strength (1:16). Paul described

Him as One Who alone has immortality and lives in unapproachable light (I Tim. 6:16). Paul experienced His light firsthand when he saw the countenance of the Lord in the light that shone on him on his way to Damascus to persecute the believers in YAHSHUA (Acts 9: 3-9). He had come to Paul to correct him and to open his spiritual eyes to the truth by blinding his physical eyes for a time. In the light of His countenance Paul was humbled and fearful. The shining of YAHSHUA'S countenance is beyond human's eyes ability to look at Him. We know Him now only in part, but someday we will know Him fully as He is in the sphere of holiness, for then we will have had achieved the perfection of His holiness through our glorified body.

**MARANATHA!**

(References: Revelation by Lehman Strauss)