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Revelation Chapter 1

As we move into our study into the first chapter of the book of Revelation, we're going to once again see what a tectonically important book the book of Revelation truly is. There is so much that could be said concerning this one book that I daresay we could spend a lifetime just studying the book of Revelation alone, and probably still not grasp all that it has to offer. But... during this study we'll try to grasp enough of its message to encourage you and your family to open its pages with some degree of confidence, so that you too, will not be afraid to seek after the blessings and wisdom that it has to offer.

As we've stated before, the importance of prayer before attempting to understand any one of the 66 books of the Bible is massively important. And so, as we move through this study together, I'd like us to remind to spend some time in each one of our prayer closets, asking our Father in heaven for the discernment that only he can give us, so that we can properly understand what it is that he wants us to see, and what it is he wants us to hear, and to know, and to understand from the book of Revelation.

As we've already covered in our introductory teaching into the book of Revelation, the author of the book of Revelation is indeed the apostle John, not only according to the apostle John himself in the book of Revelation, but also according to historical documentation that comes from several early church founders and historians.

During the time that John spent on the island of Patmos, we know that John was being held as a prisoner on the island of Patmos by Emperor Domitian for bearing witness to the word of Yahovah, and to the testimony of Yeshua Hamashiach. In the very first couple of sentences of the first chapter of the book of Revelation, John tells us that he was bearing witness to the word of Yahovah, and to the testimony of Yeshua Hamashiach to everyone that he saw. And there is no doubt in my mind that John was indeed bearing witness to the word of Yahovah, and to the testimony of Yeshua Hamashiach to every soul that he saw.

As we can tell from the epistles of the Apostle John in the Brit Hadasha... John's heart was zealous for the word of his Father in heaven. And his heart was certainly zealous for the very words of the Messiah that he walked with throughout his ministry. There are a lot of things that we know about the apostle John, and although I don't want to make this particular teaching an autobiography about the apostle John... I do want to stress the love that John had in his heart for his Messiah. And it is because of the love that John had in his heart for his Messiah... that it seems so fitting, that John would indeed be the one that Yahovah would have selected to give

this Revelation to.

Once again, just to recap, the very word “Revelation” comes from the Greek word “apokalupsis”, and it means to “lay bare”, or to “disclose something” or to “reveal” or to “unveil”. What the apostle John is doing through the book of Revelation is revealing the logos, or the plan of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob to his people. It’s written within the confines of our Scriptures that our Father in heaven does not do anything without first revealing it to his servants the prophets. And so, we should be thankful that our Father is indeed revealing this information to us in our time.

As we read through the epistles of the apostles, it becomes evident to us that even the apostles in their time believed that they were living at the end of the age. There’s no doubt in my mind that the apostles thought that the Messiah was going to return, and establish his kingdom in their lifetimes, even though, our Messiah had clearly told them that no one knows when he was going to return except his Father. **(scrn 1)**

Mat 24:36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

I want us to pay particularly close attention to this Scripture, because the wording that we find in it, and the context of this Scripture is going to be prevalent throughout the book of Revelation. We will continuously see a very clear, and a very distinct role being played between the Father, and the Son.

Now I know that there are undoubtedly going to be some people who are going to view this teaching who believe, and are deeply entrenched in... A doctrine best known as “the Trinity”. And I’ll bet you’ve never heard of the Trinity doctrine before. And so, before we move forward, let me explain. The Trinity doctrine in a nutshell proclaims that our Father in heaven is actually three Gods in one. Our Father in heaven is often times displayed as an egg, having an egg shell, along with the white of the egg, along with its yoke, all being one egg. And although I cannot completely and utterly dismiss the fact that the essence, and the nature of our Father in heaven is, and was in... and through his only begotten Son... I feel that it is extremely important that we all understand the individual personages of both the Father and his only begotten Son.

As we move through the book of Revelation, and subsequently through the rest of the Scriptures that pertain to the book of Revelation... we will consistently see the unity of both the Father and the Son, as well as the separation between both the Father and the Son. What we’re going to see in the book of Revelation, and all throughout the Scripture is going to make many of our brothers and sisters who are absolutely sold on a Trinitarian doctrine, somewhat uncomfortable. And rightly so, I might add.

Although I will not debate the Trinity doctrine here in this teaching by any means, I will proclaim the truth of Scripture and what it says, and I’ll simply ask that you bow your head, and

bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach for the discernment to understand the divine nature of our Father in heaven and the Blessed King who came to shed his blood in order to atone for our wickedness.

As modern-day Western minded, Roman Greco Christians... we often times want to explain things that are simply unexplainable to the human mind. I would submit to you my friends, that the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who is the creator of the universe, and all things seen and unseen, is much larger than we could ever even imagine. The truth is my friends, we are told through the Scripture that our Father in heaven is not a man. **(scrn 2)**

Num 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Knowing that our Father in heaven is not a man, and knowing full well that our Father in heaven is indeed a spirit... we must... and I repeat must... come to the realization that we are not told within the confines of our Scripture what the mechanics of the spirit is. Exactly what can a spirit do? Exactly what can a spirit not do? Do all spirits have the same abilities? Are all spirits omnipotent, and omnipresent? Can spirits have other spirits within them? Exactly how many spirits does our Elohim have? Man says three. The Bible says seven... at least.

What we do know about our Father in heaven, is that he is indeed outside of time and space as we know it. Our Father in heaven is able to see throughout all of time, and I would submit to you my friends, that we as men simply do not know how he does what he does, let alone... the physical makeup of his being.

What I can't tell you, is that there are passages within our Scripture that do indeed tell us that our Elohim is indeed an Elohim of plurality. And along with those Scriptures that point to a God of plurality... there are just as many Scriptures that point to a God of singularity. And just to throw a curveball into your theological thinking... I want you to realize that Yahovah our Elohim did not speak to Moses in the burning Bush as so many modern-day Christians assume that he did.

If we look closely at the Scripture, we'll see that it was and I quote, "the Angel of Yahovah" that spoke to Moses through the burning Bush. And just so that I can make this quick point, I want us to go back and visit that Scripture for just a moment. **(scrn 3)**

Exo 3:2 And the **angel of the LORD** appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

Exo 3:3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."

Exo 3:4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Exo 3:5 Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

Exo 3:6 And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

I want us to notice here, that verse two tells us that “the Angel of Yahovah”... appeared to Moses in the flame of fire outside the midst of a bush. But in verse four we’re told that Yahovah himself spoke to Moses. And I would submit to you that more times than not... when we see Yahovah speaking to someone... we see this, and I quote, “Angel of Yahovah” appearing to the person that Yahovah is speaking to.

My point in all of this, is that the plurality of our Father in heaven cannot be denied without denying the Scripture. Does this mean that Jesus is God, and that God is Jesus? Well... let’s take a look at what the book of Hebrews has to say about the very nature of both the Father, and the Son. (scrn 4)

Heb 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Heb 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Heb 1:4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

According to Hebrews chapter 1 verse three, our Messiah “is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.” This is what the Scripture says, and so, I would submit to you my friends that this is what we should accept. Our Messiah is the exact imprint of the nature of his Father. If we accept what we are told here in Hebrews chapter 1 verse three, I think that Christians who believe in a Trinity, and Christians who shy away from the trinitarian doctrine, should both be able to sleep well at night.

There should be no doubt in our minds, that our Father in heaven is, and was, and always will be in our Messiah just as our Messiah is in us. (scrn 5)

Joh 17:20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Joh 17:22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

Joh 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

I want us to clearly notice what our Messiah tells us here in his own red-letter words. This is a prayer that our Messiah was praying to his Father by the way. And so, once again we see the individuality of both Father, and the Son just in this prayer alone. But... we need to hear what it is that our Messiah says in this prayer.

Our Messiah tells his Father that he wants us all to be one with him, just as his Father is in him. In verse 22 he says “the glory that you have given me Father, I have given to them, that they may be one”... Get that my friends... “that they may be one... even as we are one.” Says our Messiah.

These are red letter words from our Messiah. In verse 23 he says to his Father that he wants to be in us, and us in him, that we may be perfectly one (echad), so that the world may know that his Father has sent him, and has loved us... just as much as he loves his only begotten son.

And so, the idea of being “Echad”.... (being “one”)... is not a new concept. The idea of being “Echad”.... or being “one”... Is not a doctrine that Catholicism has created. Being “Echad” with the Father, has always been the goal of our Messiah from the very beginning. Not just for our Messiah... but for us all. (scrn 6)

Gal 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

My friends it is important for you and I to understand that if we are one in the Messiah... then we are one in the Father according to the Messiah. You cannot be one with the Son, and claim not to be one with the Father, because the Father is one with the Son, just as we are one with him. And what does the Son say concerning the Father that dwells within him? (scrn 7)

Joh 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Joh 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Joh 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

Can we please stop arguing about the Trinity? Can we please lay our arms down? Can we please stop the division? Can we please do as our Messiah has prayed for us to do... and be... echad!

I have come to the conclusion that the argument is mute. It is senseless. It is being used as a tool by our adversary to drive a wedge in-between our brothers and sisters. There are Scriptures within the confines of our Bibles that tell us that our Messiah is the very radiance of the glory of his Father and the exact imprint of his nature. That's the information that were given... and that's the information that we need to accept. And I would submit to you my friends that that's the exact same principle that's going to be laid out all throughout the book of Revelation. You simply cannot get away from. It is inescapable. How all of that works out exactly, and how a spirit is able to become one... "echad" should have already been made known to us if we are indeed one with the Messiah as we claim to be... and heirs of the promise of Abraham.

What is the universal glue that binds us together and makes us "echad"? What is the universal glue that makes two spirits one? What is the universal glue that makes a man and a woman "one flesh"? Think about it for just a minute.

What is it that makes us one with the body of our Messiah? What is it that makes us one with our Father in heaven? What was it that made our Messiah one with his Father? I would submit to you my friends that it is, and was, and always will be the very essence, and nature of Yahovah... "Love."

Faith, hope, and love. Which is the greatest of these?... "love." The very biblical definition of the love of God is found in first John chapter 5 verse three... And I quote, "for this is the love of Yahovah... that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome."

Without the love of God, you are not echad with God. Without obedience, you have no love, because this is the very biblical definition of love according to our Father in heaven and his God breathed Scriptures. Our Fathers language of love... is obedience.

Let's take a look at some of the things that were going to see come to fruition in the book of Revelation. (scrn 8)

The Apocalypse

- End of the age events
- The Return of the Messiah
- The confinement of Satan
- Our Messiah's millennial reign on earth
- The abolishment of sin
- A new Heaven and a new Earth

We're going to see the end of the age, and events that will literally change the world as we now know it. Make no mistake about it my friends, once our Father in heaven splits that sky, and that trumpet sounds, nothing will ever be the same again. Once the chaff, and the weeds are bound and removed from the wheat... nothing will be the same again.

Our Father in heaven is going to return to make the enemies of our Messiah a footstool for our Messiah. When our Messiah returns, he is going to reestablish his kingdom here on this earth, and there are indeed human eyes that are going to witness this very event.

The confinement of our adversary and his incarceration will be witnessed by the world.

Our Messiah will indeed set up his millennial reign on this earth, and there is nothing, and I repeat nothing... that's going to stop that from coming to pass.

Sin will finally be abolished. Can you imagine that my friends? Can you imagine a world without sin? Can you imagine a world where Yah's people will actually be one with Yah? Can you imagine a world without death, and sickness, and depression, and addiction, and anxiety? It's coming. In fact... I would submit to you my friends that it's closer now than most of us even realize. And along with this sinless world... will also come a new heaven, and the new earth. Which brings us to our next Scripture. **(scrn 9)**

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Mat 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

Too many modern-day Christians today believe that our Messiah completed everything at the cross. And because they have been wrongly taught that our Messiah completed everything at the cross... they believe that all of the laws of his Father, and the writings of the prophets made note of here in Matthew chapter 5 have all been done away with. But the truth is my friends, that all things are not completed until Revelation chapter 21 when heaven and earth pass away, and a new heaven and the new earth is established. And just to prove to you what I'm saying, let's take just a moment to jump ahead in the book of Revelation to chapter 21. **(scrn 10)**

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

Rev 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Rev 21:5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Rev 21:6 And he said to me, *“It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.*

Once again my friends, heaven and earth does not pass away, and all things are not completed until the 21st chapter of the book of Revelation. And so, just as our Messiah has already told us in his own red-letter words in the fifth chapter of the book of Matthew... not the crossing of a “T”, or the dotting of an “I” has passed from his Father’s law to this very day.

Yes indeed there are some laws in particular that have been completed, but they were not completed so that we could just forget them. Even though the sacrificial laws have been paid by our Messiah... they still stand as a stark reminder of what the cost of sin is! And for those who do not accept the free gift of salvation... even those sacrificial laws still stand, because you don’t have a savior who’s paid your debt!

And with that, all under our belts... let’s turn to the first chapter of the book of Revelation so that we can know exactly what it does say, and just as importantly... what it does not say.
Revelation chapter 1

Rev 1:1 *The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,*

Rev 1:2 *who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.*

Rev 1:3 *Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.*

Rev 1:4 *John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,*

Rev 1:5 *and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood*

Rev 1:6 *and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Rev 1:7 *Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.*

Rev 1:8 *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

Rev 1:9 *I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the*

word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Rev 1:11 saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Rev 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

Rev 1:13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

Rev 1:14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,

Rev 1:15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

Rev 1:16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Rev 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,

Rev 1:18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Rev 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

Rev 1:20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Once again, just as we stated earlier, we see a very distinct separation between both the Father and the Son. We once again see, that the Son has a very clear, and very distinct subordination to the Father. It is indeed Yahovah, the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that gives this Revelation to his only begotten Son Yeshua Hamashiach, (Jesus in the Greek). I want us to be very clear about what we're reading here in the first chapter of the book of Revelation.

This Revelation does not come from Yeshua Hamashiach Originally. Just as our Messiah has already told us... he himself doesn't even know when he's going to return. This is something that only the Father knows. Only the Father has this Revelation. And only the Father can give this Revelation to the Son. Who in turn... then gives it to his Angel... who in turn, then gives it to the apostle John... who in turn, then gives it to us. (scrn 11)

THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

- Yahovah (Our Elohim (God))
- Yahshua (His Son (our Messiah))
- Yahshua's Angel (messenger)
- John (The Apostle)
- You and I (The body)

As we begin reading the book of Revelation here in the first chapter, we can clearly see that there is indeed a chain of command if you will. And we can also see this very distinctly noticeable separation between the Father who must give this Revelation ... to his Son. And I want us to also pay close attention to what John says in verse two. John says that he bore witness to the word of Yahovah the Father... and.... (get that my friends... "and")... to the testimony of Yeshua Hamashiach.

Once again, we see a distinct separation between Father and Son. And were going to see even more of that as we move forward so, once again, I want us to become acclimated to seeing these things, and I want us to get comfortable with the knowledge of knowing that there are certain things that only the Father knows that the Son does not know. "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the Angels of heaven, nor the Son... But the Father only." That comes directly from the red-letter words of our Messiah found in Matthew chapter 24 verse 36 that we've already seen earlier in this teaching. And right here in the book of Revelation chapter 1, we see that this revelation that is being given to us in the book of Revelation was given to the Son by his Father. So, in other words... the Son did not have this Revelation, nor was he privy to this information before the Father gave it to him.

Let's move on to verse three. **(scrn 12)**

Rev 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

We often times hear about the blessing that is attached to the book of Revelation, but I would submit to you that we rarely hear the blessing that is attached to the book of Revelation properly. As we said in our introduction into the book of Revelation last week... the unbeliever who reads the book of Revelation will not receive the blessing of the book of Revelation just because they've read it. The blessing of the book of Revelation comes from not only reading the book... it comes by hearing what the book says and keeping what is written in the book of Revelation.

In other words... if you do not have the eyes to see, and the ears to hear what the book of Revelation is telling you, then you will not receive the blessing of the book of Revelation. Only those who understand what they're reading will be blessed by the knowledge that they are being

given. This is a far cry from receiving a blessing just because you've read the book. I want us to understand that there are stipulations that come along with this blessing. You must not only read it, you must hear it... and you must keep what is written in it. In other words... you must believe what it is that you're reading, and understand what it is that you're reading in order to receive the blessing. And by the way... there are seven blessings in the book of Revelation ... not just one. And so, you might want to make a note of that, because we'll be getting into the other six blessings as we move forward in our study into the book of Revelation.

There is an aspect of obedience that goes along with this blessing found in the book of Revelation. And this by no means should surprise us. We have to remember that John was a Jew. And in John's Jewish mind the "**hear and obey**" connection is expressed in the Hebrew word "shema", which means exactly that... "**Hear and obey**". And so as always, throughout all of our Scripture... to simply read the Scripture and comprehend the words of the Scripture without obeying them... is useless... at least when it comes to receiving the promised blessing. And I hate to say it my friends but the concept of obedience to God's word is all but being extinguished throughout modern day Christianity today.

Today's modern-day version of Christianity is all about "*do as thou wilt is the whole of the law*". Which by the way... comes directly from the Devils Bible written by Madam Blavatsky and Aleister Crowley.

Today's modern-day Christian thought is general that obedience is obviously connected to a rule, and a rule is connected to a deed, or work, or works... and works are bad because they fly in the face of grace. Today's modern-day Christianity wrongfully, (and shamefully I might add), now teaches that while the Old Testament is all about rules and regulations... the New Testament is all about, "*do as thou wilt is now the whole of the law*" because I'm once saved always saved, so it really doesn't matter what I do, or do not do because my Messiah did it all for me at the cross, so I don't have to be bothered with anything. And so today, obedience has little to no place in the life of a New Testament Christian, in fact... It's almost nonexistent.

With that in mind, I want my fellow brothers and sisters to understand that if you believe that obedience is a thing of the past and not a requirement for you... then whatever blessing is available to you from reading, or hearing the book of Revelation... will not be given to you.

What today's modern-day Christian needs to understand is that obedience is God's language of love. If you truly love him... you'll do what he asks you to do. (scrn 13)

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

And this my friends is not the only place that you'll find this concept in your Bible. It's written

all throughout the 66 books of our Bibles, this particular Scripture just sums it up in a couple of sentences.

Let's continue on with versus four through six: (scrn 14)

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

Rev 1:6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Once again, we see a very clear and distinct separation between the Father, and the Son. As John begins to write to the seven churches he says and I quote, “grace to you, and peace from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne.” And I want us to notice in verse five, we see the word “**and**”. So, who was the first person that John was talking about? The first person the John was talking about was Yahovah, our Father in heaven. And so, I want us to understand that from now on when you see John talking about the one who is, and who was, and who is to come... who's John going to be talking about? He's talking about the Father. This should be benchmark for us to understand exactly who it is that John is describing in the future.

Many modern-day Christians believe that only the Son (Yahshua, Jesus) is going to return, but I would submit to you my friends that it is written in our Scripture that our Father is also going to come, and that our Father in heaven is going to make the enemies of his Son a footstool for his Son. I want us to read something found in the book of Zachariah chapter 14 verses one through four: (scrn 15)

Zec 14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst.

Zec 14:2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

Zec 14:4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

(scrn 16)

Zec 14:5 And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

Zec 14:6 On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost.

Zec 14:7 And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

Zec 14:8 On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

Zec 14:9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

According to the book of Zechariah it will be “Yahovah” whose feet stand on the mount of olives, when the mount of olives is split into from the East to the West, not Yeshua Jesus. And yet according to modern day evangelical Christians... they say... that it will be Yeshua Jesus whose feet will touch down on the mount of olives.

So, who is it that we are to believe? The plot thickens!

What today’s modern-day Christian needs to understand is that in most instances... especially in the Old Testament... when we see the word “Lord”... it’s written in capital letters for reason. The reason that the word “Lord” is written in capital letters is because the word “Lord” is not the proper word. What they are covering up with the word “Lord” is the very name of Yahovah. Our Father in heaven wrote his name in his Scripture well over 6000 times throughout his Scripture. It is the Hebrew letters, yud, hay, vav, hay (**scrn 17**)

I AM THAT I AM

The image shows the Hebrew characters for the name Yod Hey Vav Hey (YHWH). The characters are arranged in two rows. The top row consists of four characters: a Yod (י) with a dot above it, a Hey (ה) with a dot above it, a Vav (ו) with a dot above it, and a Hey (ה) with a dot above it. The bottom row consists of four dots: two dots under the first Hey, two dots under the second Hey, and one dot under the Vav.

Yod Hey Vav Hey

And so, there should be no doubt that when Zachariah tells us that it will indeed be Yahovah, the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whose feet will set upon the mount of olives...

it will indeed be Yahovah, the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who told us very clearly through his God breathed Scriptures that he would indeed return to put the enemies of his only begotten Son... under the feet of his only begotten Son. Will Yeshua actually return? The answer to that question is an unequivocal yes! He will indeed return to set up his millennial kingdom, and we'll see that as we move forward, but make no mistake about it my friends... he's not coming alone... which should be somewhat worrisome, for the sinner.

As John continues in Revelation chapter 1 verse five, he says and I quote, "and... and... from Yeshua Hamashiach the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the Kings on earth." And so, once again let this be a benchmark for us when we read about the faithful witness. Who is the faithful witness? The faithful witness is our Messiah who came to be a witness against the sin that was upon the earth. He was a witness of both the mercy and the grace of his Father. And he was a witness to the sin that was taking place on the earth. And he was also the firstborn of the dead.

Now a lot of people will argue about Lazarus and others who we know were raised from the dead because they're mentioned in Scripture. But I would submit to you my friends that our Messiah was the only one that was resurrected as the first fruit of the new harvest. Our Messiah was the first one who was raised from the dead to everlasting life to sit at the right hand of the Father. And he will raise up the last of the dead to everlasting life.

And so, in the future when we read through the book of Revelation, we know who John is talking about when he talks about the faithful witness and the firstborn of the dead, and who the ruler of Kings on earth is. **(scrn 18)**

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

Rev 1:6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Our Messiah is the one who made us a kingdom of priests to his Elohim and Father. And I want us to catch that again my friends in verse six... our Messiah made us a kingdom, and priests to **his Elohim... his God...** and **"his" Father**. It's important to slow down in order to get the details of what we're being told here in the Scriptures, because if we just flyover them run a mess a multitude of important understandings.

Verse four begins a section of Revelation that is a basic set of instructions for the believers located at seven different congregations in Asia. Once again, just as we've said in our earlier introduction into the book of Revelation, the word "church" here can give modern-day Christians a very skewed idea about who John was talking about here in the book of Revelation.

The actual Greek word for “churches” here is the Greek word “ekklesia”, and the proper definition of “ekklesia” is “a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place... an assembly”.

Too many modern-day Christians... when they see the word “church” automatically envision a brick-and-mortar building with a pagan obelisk, steeple on its roof, full of Gentiles. But the truth is my friends, that no such thing existed in the days of the apostles. There were no brick-and-mortar churches with pagan steeples on their roofs full of nothing but Gentiles. That concept has been written into the New Testament by the modern-day English translators of our English translated Bibles.

Even at the time that John was writing the book of Revelation... true believers, both Jew and Gentile, were still meeting in the synagogues, and in homes, and in public places. They were not known as “churches”. They were known as “Assemblies”. Churches full of nothing but Gentiles were not introduced into the picture until the late second to third centuries when the Gentiles wrongfully, and shamefully... decided to take it upon themselves to become a replacement for the house of Israel.

And so once again, we need to be very careful when reading something into the Scripture that was simply not there at that time.

Moving forward... what John was conveying to the seven assemblies throughout Asia minor... was not prophecy per se. What John was conveying to the seven assemblies was a set of instructions for the believers who are located at these seven different assemblies.

Something else that’s very important, and very pertinent to the book of Revelation is the number seven. Seven is the biblical number of completion and perfection, and the book of Revelation is full of sevens. **(scrn 19)**

- Seven Lampstands
- Seven Spirits
- Seven Stars
- Seven Lamps
- Seven Horns
- Seven Eyes
- Seven Thousand
- Seven Mountains
- Seven Kings
- Seven Angles
- Seven Thunders
- Seven Heads
- Seven Crowns

- Seven Plagues

There are literally hundreds of 7 that can be found in Revelation. Take some time, and see if you can find them all... and good luck by the way. The number seven also carries with it a sense of finality. And the use of the number seven is fittingly used in the book of Revelation because the book of Revelation speaks of the finality of God's coming judgment upon the earth. It also speaks of the end of time and space as we know it. And so, it's appropriate that John is writing to these seven different assemblies throughout Asia to help them recognize their spiritual condition, and to better prepare not only them, but us for what's to come.

And as we're reading this, I want us to understand that there were many more assemblies throughout Asia other than just these seven assemblies. There were hundreds of Christian assemblies what had begun to spring up all across Asia at that time. And to this very day there is a great debate going on among biblical scholars concerning the nature of the seven letters, that went out to these very specific seven assemblies.

Some scholars say that these seven letters to the seven assemblies are simply symbolic of what goes on in all congregations, and so these letters are really nothing more than examples of what can go wrong within all assemblies. Other scholars say that the seven letters represent seven different dispensations of time if you will. They claim that the seven letters represent seven different stages of church development over the centuries. In other words, the first letter to the assembly of Ephesus represents the characteristics of the first stage of church development. The letter to Smyrna would then represent the characteristics of the second stage of church development, and so on and so forth, and of course the letter to the assembly of Laodicea, would represent the final stage of church development.

In other words... what these biblical scholars are trying to get us to believe, is that none of these problems were really going on in any of these actual assemblies at that time. These are just letters that represent a future assembly in the future. I happen to take issue with that. This is not what John teaches, or proclaims anywhere in his writings. And it's my contention, that the seven letters written to these seven assemblies were meant to address the actual conditions that were going on within these seven actual assemblies at that time. And the problems, and trials and tribulations that these assemblies went through were shown to us so that we could learn what to watch out for throughout all of our generations.

Let there be no mistake about it... our Father in heaven knew what was going on within these assemblies. That alone, probably shook these assemblies up a little bit. Can you imagine having things that are going on within your assembly, and then getting a letter from God telling you you better knock it off?

Once again, I believe that these particular seven letters to these particular seven congregations are valuable for today's believing assemblies of all ages to use for learning and instruction even today in our time.

If we're going to receive the blessing promised to us back in verse three... then once again my friends... we need to be obedient to what we're told in these seven letters to these seven congregations.

Any attempt that these new age biblical scholars make to try to sum up these seven letters as all possible conditions that could ever happen within any believing congregation during any age... is preposterous. There is no possible way that we could list all problems that would ever arise in all congregations throughout the ages. The problems that arise within our assemblies are way too numerous to list here in the book of Revelation or anywhere else. And so, the idea that these 7 letters represent 7 different dispensations of time, or 7 different church stages really holds no water.

Now before we leave verse six, I want us to better understand this idea of being a kingdom of priests. Our Messiah has truly made us a kingdom of priests or "cohanim" in Hebrew. But I want us to understand the role that the Levitical priesthood will play during the millennial reign of our Messiah. Because I think that many of our brothers and sisters may be surprised to learn, that it will indeed be the Levitical priesthood that will serve at the temple during the millennial reign of our Messiah.

Modern-day Christianity today has once again clearly misunderstood why the Levitical priesthood has been removed from its place on the earth here today. Because the Levitical priesthood has been abolished today in our time... many Christian denominational charters of men now proclaim that they as Gentiles have replaced the Levitical priesthood along with the House of Israel.

This idea that we as Gentiles have replaced Yahovah's chosen Levites quite frankly is laughable on its face when we read the whole Bible and not just half of it. For those of my brothers and sisters who believe that Gentiles have replaced the Levitical priesthood... let me throw a bucket of ice-cold water over that festering misconception. I want us to listen to what Yahovah, the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has to say about the Levitical priesthood who will indeed once again be put into service during our Messiah's millennial reign. Ezekiel chapter 44, beginning with verse nine: **(scrn 20)**

Eze 44:9 *“Thus says the Lord GOD: No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the people of Israel, shall enter my sanctuary.*

Eze 44:10 *But the Levites who went far from me, going astray from me after their idols when Israel went astray, shall bear their punishment.*

Eze 44:11 *They shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the temple and ministering in the temple. They shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before the people, to minister to them.*

Eze 44:12 *Because they ministered to them before their idols and became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel, therefore I have sworn concerning them,*

declares the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their punishment.

(scrn 21)

Eze 44:13 They shall not come near to me, to serve me as priest, nor come near any of my holy things and the things that are most holy, but they shall bear their shame and the abominations that they have committed.

Eze 44:14 Yet I will appoint them to keep charge of the temple, to do all its service and all that is to be done in it.

Eze 44:15 “But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept the charge of my sanctuary when the people of Israel went astray from me, shall come near to me to minister to me. And they shall stand before me to offer me the fat and the blood, declares the Lord GOD.

Eze 44:16 They shall enter my sanctuary, and they shall approach my table, to minister to me, and they shall keep my charge.

Let there be no mistake about it my friends, a priest is someone who has been set apart to serve our Father in heaven. Our Scripture tells us very clearly that we are a nation of priests, and this is exactly how we should look at ourselves because this is the way that our Father in heaven sees us, and this my friends is what he fully expects from us. However... even though all of the house of Israel will indeed be priests in his soon coming kingdom... this does not mean that anyone other than the original Levitical priesthood will be tending to the temple service.

We'll learn more about the fact that we will indeed all become priests in our Messiahs soon coming kingdom as we move deeper into the book of Revelation this next coming Saturday at 9 AM Eastern standard time.

I'm pastor Scott Velain with Holy Impact Ministries, and I'd like to thank you for sharing your time with us here today for our teaching on the book of Revelation, and as I always do, I will ask you once again...

Please, take what you've heard here today to your prayer closet, bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you've heard here today be true... Or not.

Ask, seek, and knock, and the door will be opened to you. And if you will do that... you and I will indeed walk hand in hand through the Gates of his soon coming kingdom.

And don't forget to join us this next coming Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard time for the continuation of our study into the first and second chapters of the book of Exodus.