

NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 1

AS WE DISCOVERED LAST TIME, THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS A LETTER FROM JESUS TO JOHN THE APOSTLE, (SENT VIA ANGEL) TO REVEAL TO THE CHURCH AT THE END OF THE FIRST CENTURY, "THE THINGS WHICH MUST SOON TAKE PLACE (1:1)". REVELATION IS FILLED WITH MESSAGES, IMAGES, WARNINGS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR GOD'S "BOND-SERVANTS" (AKA THE CHURCH).

AS WE MOVE AHEAD, WE AFFIRM THAT OUR APPROACH IN LOOKING AT THESE SCRIPTURES IS NOT TO BYPASS THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE TO GLEAN OUR OWN LESSONS, BUT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANT TO THE FIRST AUDIENCE READING IT FIRST, AND THEN DISCERN WHAT IT MEANS FOR US TODAY. WE'LL ASK "WHAT DID THIS MEAN TO THEM" BEFORE WE ASK "WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?".

THE CLOSING WORDS OF THE INTRODUCTION TO REVELATION WILL CENTER US AS WE MOVE FORWARD. THIS INFORMATION ULTIMATELY EMANATES FROM THE LORD, GOD ALMIGHTY - "WHO IS, WHO WAS, AND IS TO COME. (REVELATION 1:9)" THE WHOLE WORLD IS IN HIS STRONG HAND. THIS DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S TRANSCENDENCE IS NOT A NEW IDEA.

ISAIAH 46:9-10 (NLT) "REMEMBER THE FORMER THINGS LONG PAST, FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NO OTHER; I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NO ONE LIKE ME, I AM DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING, AND FROM ANCIENT TIMES THINGS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DONE, SAYING, 'MY PURPOSE WILL BE ESTABLISHED, AND I WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL MY GOOD PLEASURE';

YAHWEH'S NAME LITERALLY MEANS "TO BE, TO EXIST" AND IN EVERY DIMENSION OF TIME HE SAYS "I AM." IN THE PAST HE SAID "I AM", IN THE PRESENT HE SAYS "I AM" AND SO AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE WE HEAR HIS COMFORTING CALL "I AM" THERE TOO.

WE ARE GOING TO SEE THROUGHOUT REVELATION BOTH DISTINCTIONS AND OVERLAPS IN THE IMAGES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF YAHWEH, THE FATHER AND JESUS. THESE IMAGES AND DESCRIPTIONS ARE INTENDED TO BUILD UPON WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN REVEALED AND ESTABLISHED IN THE SCRIPTURE NOT BE THE SOLE PLACE TO GET THE UNDERSTANDING. FOR EXAMPLE, JESUS' DESCRIPTION OF HIMSELF AS: "I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART (MATTHEW 11:29)" IS PROBABLY WHERE WE SHOULD BEGIN AND END WITH THE WARRIOR KING ON A WHITE HORSE. WE NEED BOTH TO UNDERSTAND CHRIST.

REVELATION 1:9-11 - JOHN'S INTRODUCTION

JOHN INTRODUCES HIMSELF AS "BROTHER AND FELLOW PARTAKER IN THE TRIBULATION, KINGDOM AND PERSEVERANCE WHICH ARE IN JESUS." THE AGED APOSTLE JOHN IS NOT "PULLING RANK" BUT JOINING HIMSELF IN THE FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH. HE HIGHLIGHTS THAT HE'S IN THE BATTLE WITH THEM. HE HIGHLIGHTS THREE THINGS WHICH STAND AGAINST THE TRUTH OF GOD WHO WAS, IS AND IS TO COME:

TRIBULATION: WHAT HAS BEEN

PERSEVERANCE: WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

KINGDOM: WHAT IS TO COME

IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH MANY TRIALS ALREADY, WE'VE GOT TO PERSEVERE NOW, AND IN THE END, THE KINGDOM WILL COME AND BE OUR SALVATION. TIMES ARE DIFFICULT NOW, BUT WE ARE NOT IN A MOMENT THAT IS SOME BLACK HOLE OF EVIL THAT WILL NEVER END. THE KINGDOM IS COMING.

HOW IMPORTANT WOULD "THE HOPE" HAVE BEEN FOR THESE CHRISTIANS? WHY WOULD THIS HAVE BEEN SUCH A CENTRAL FOCUS DURING THIS TIME?

JOHN IDENTIFIES THAT HE IS ON THE "ISLAND CALLED PATMOS BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF GOD AND THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS (1:9)." THE "WORD OF GOD" IS WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT CALLS "THE GOSPEL" AND THE "TESTIMONY OF JESUS" LIKELY SPEAKS OF JOHN'S EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY TO THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.



PATMOS, "IS AN AEGEAN ISLAND TO WHICH ROME EXILED POLITICAL CRIMINALS, SHOWS THAT HE IS A PARTNER WITH THE CHURCHES' TRIBULATION AND PATIENT ENDURANCE. PATMOS IS AN ARID ISLAND... ROUGHLY 40 MILES FROM THE MAINLAND OF ASIA MINOR. SINCE ANTIQUITY, IT HAS POSSESSED A WORKING PROTECTED HARBOR NEAR ITS CENTER (MODERN SKALA) AND OTHER PLACES FOR SMALL BOATS TO ANCHOR. INSCRIPTIONS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS INDICATE THE EXISTENCE OF A FORTRESS BEFORE JOHN'S ARRIVAL, AND THE CLEAR PRESENCE OF THE ARTEMIS CULT AFTERWARD. THE LIMITED POPULATION OF THE ISLAND DURING JOHN'S DAY WAS PROBABLY LARGELY PAGAN. ASSUMING (WITH CHURCH TRADITION) THAT JOHN HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY BANISHED TO PATMOS, HE MAY HAVE BEEN GRANTED SOME FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ON THE ISLAND (EVEN IF, AS CLAIMED IN LATER TRADITION, HE LIVED IN A CAVE) AND MAY NOT ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN IN A PRISON, THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE

BEEN BARRED FROM LEAVING PATMOS. (ESV STUDY BIBLE, REVELATION 1:9)

"(PATMOS) WAS ABOUT 10 MILES LONG AND 6 MILES WIDE - A BARE, ROCKY VOLCANIC ISLAND WITH HILLS RISING TO ABOUT 1000FT. THERE ARE REFERENCES IN ROMAN LITERATURE TO SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT SUCH ISLANDS WERE USED FOR THE BANISHMENT OF POLITICAL OFFENDERS...THE GOVERNOR HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SEND PEOPLE INTO EXILE FOR POLITICAL REASONS...IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE, JOHN APPARENTLY HAD BEEN ACCUSED TO THE GOVERNOR OF ASIA OF SEDITION BECAUSE THE "WORD OF GOD AND THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS", I.E., BECAUSE OF HIS PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS THE MESSIAH" (GEORGE ELTON LADD, "A COMMENTARY ON THE REVELATION OF JOHN" PAGE 30-31)

V. 10 - "IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD'S DAY" - JOHN MENTIONS THAT HE WAS IN PRAYER OR WORSHIPFUL, SPIRITUAL COMMUNION WITH GOD ON A SUNDAY. IN THIS STATE HE HEARD A "LOUD VOICE" INSTRUCTING HIM TO WRITE IN A "BOOK" (LIT: SCROLL) WHAT HE WOULD SEE TO SEVEN NAMED CHURCHES ON THE MAINLAND OF THE ASIAN PROVINCE.

"THE ORDER IN WHICH THE CHURCHES ARE LISTED TRACES THE ROUTE ALONG WHICH A COURIER FROM PATMOS WOULD HAVE CARRIED THE SCROLL." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, REVELATION 1:10)

JOHN IS COMMISSIONED TO WRITE WHAT HE SEES. BEFORE WE MOVE ON, IT'S GOOD FOR US TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS COMMISSIONING. IT'S TEMPTING TO LOOK AT REVELATION AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AND TRY TO SORT OUT THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE VISIONS AND PROPHECIES. TO BE SURE, THERE ARE THINGS THAT WILL BE RECORDED THAT WILL HELP US MAKE SENSE OF THE FUTURE AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN AND WHEN. BUT THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS NOT LAID OUT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER. IT'S LAID OUT IN "WHAT DOES JOHN SEE" ORDER.

THE QUESTION FOR US TO ASK IS NOT SO MUCH "WHAT HAPPENS NEXT" BUT "WHAT DOES JOHN SEE NEXT." AND WITH THAT WE BEGIN OUR JOURNEY WITH JOHN TO SEE WHAT HE SEES.

REVELATION 1:12-16 - WHAT (OR WHO) JOHN SEES

SEVEN GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS.

"ONE LIKE A SON OF MAN" STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEVEN LAMPSTANDS

LONG ROBE, GOLDEN SASH, HEAD AND HAIR, WHITE LIKE SNOW, EYES LIKE FLAME OF FIRE

FEET: BURNISHED BRONZE LIKE WHEN IT IS MADE TO GLOW IN A FURNACE

VOICE: SOUND (ESV: "ROAR") OF MANY WATERS

IN HIS HAND: HOLDING SEVEN STARS

OUT OF HIS MOUTH: SHARP TWO EDGED SWORD

HIS FACE: LIKE THE SUN SHINING IN ITS STRENGTH

Q - WHAT DOES THIS ALL SEEM TO MEAN TO YOU AS YOU READ IT?

THANKFULLY, AS WE CONTINUE ON WE GET SOME ANSWERS. LET'S READ AHEAD BEFORE WE GO OVER WHAT JOHN SEES.

REVELATION 1:17-18, 19-20 - WHO & WHAT JOHN SEES: JESUS, ANGELS & CHURCHES

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE: WHAT JOHN SEES IS THE INDIVIDUAL SPEAKING TO HIM, WHICH WE WILL DISCOVER IS JESUS CHRIST. THE SEVEN STARS REPRESENT SEVEN ANGELS AND THE SEVEN LAMPSTANDS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES THE LETTER IS BEING SENT TO.

THE KEY TO KNOWING THIS IS JESUS CHRIST IS FOUND IN **1:18**: "I WAS DEAD, AND BEHOLD I AM ALIVE FOREVER MORE..."

THE KEY TO KNOWING ABOUT THE LAMPS AND STARS IS FOUND IN **1:20** - "THE SEVEN STARS ARE THE ANGELS" AND THE SEVEN LAMPSTANDS ARE THE SEVEN CHURCHES".

IT'S PROBABLY AN UNDERSTATEMENT TO SAY THAT THIS VISION OF JESUS IS A FAR CRY FROM THE DEPICTION OF THE SERVANT RABBI OF GOSPELS. BUT THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT - THE RESURRECTED, GLORIFIED AND VICTORIOUSLY ASCENDED JESUS IS THE SAME, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, NOT THE SAME.

SPIRITUAL VICTORIES HAVE BEEN WON AND GLORIFICATION HAS HAPPENED. MASSIVE COSMIC SHIFTS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE UNIVERSE AS A RESULT OF JESUS' RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION.

ONE THEME FROM THIS DESCRIPTION IS **LIGHT AND MIGHT**.

LAMPSTANDS GIVE LIGHT, ESPECIALLY GOLDEN ONES. STARS GIVE LIGHT. FIRE AND GLOWING METAL GIVES LIGHT. SNOW IS WHITE AND BRIGHT. OH AND THE SUN SHINING IN FULL STRENGTH IS PRETTY BRIGHT TOO.

FIRE AND MELTING BRONZE IS BRIGHT AND HOT. ROARING WATERS ARE POWERFUL AND LOUD. A TWO EDGED SWORD IS A SHARP AND POWERFUL WEAPON. STARS AND FIRE AND BLAZING SUNS ARE PRETTY INTENSE TOO. OH, AND IF YOU CAN HOLD STARS IN YOUR HAND, THAT'S PRETTY WILD TOO.

FOR READERS FAMILIAR WITH THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES, BELLS AND WHISTLES SHOULD BE GOING OFF IN YOUR HEAD. FOR THOSE READING REVELATION FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE MAY BE CONFUSED AS TO WHAT THE HECK WE'RE SEEING. BUT, LIKE WE WILL SEE THROUGHOUT THE BOOK, THESE IMAGES ARE IMAGES THAT ARE NOT NEW, BUT OLD.

EXODUS 25:1-2 - THEN THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES, SAYING, 2 "TELL THE SONS OF ISRAEL TO RAISE A CONTRIBUTION FOR ME: FROM EVERY MAN WHOSE HEART MOVES HIM YOU SHALL RAISE MY CONTRIBUTION.

EXODUS 25:8-9 - "LET THEM CONSTRUCT A SANCTUARY FOR ME, THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM. 9 "ACCORDING TO ALL THAT I AM GOING TO SHOW YOU, AS THE PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE AND THE PATTERN OF ALL ITS FURNITURE, JUST SO YOU SHALL CONSTRUCT IT.

EXODUS 25:31 - "THEN YOU SHALL MAKE A LAMPSTAND OF PURE GOLD. THE LAMPSTAND AND ITS BASE AND ITS SHAFT ARE TO BE MADE OF HAMMERED WORK; ITS CUPS, ITS BULBS AND ITS FLOWERS SHALL BE OF ONE PIECE WITH IT.



EXODUS 25:37-40 - "THEN YOU SHALL MAKE ITS LAMPS SEVEN IN NUMBER; AND THEY SHALL MOUNT ITS LAMPS SO AS TO SHED LIGHT ON THE SPACE IN FRONT OF IT. 38 "ITS SNUFFERS AND THEIR TRAYS SHALL BE OF PURE GOLD. 39 "IT SHALL BE MADE FROM A TALENT OF PURE GOLD, WITH ALL THESE UTENSILS. 40 "SEE THAT YOU MAKE THEM AFTER THE PATTERN FOR THEM, WHICH WAS SHOWN TO YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.

GOD'S PEOPLE WERE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A TEMPORARY DWELLING PLACE FOR HIS PRESENCE - THE TABERNACLE. AND IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE OF THIS TABERNACLE, THERE WOULD BE A CANDELABRA WITH 7 LAMPSTANDS. THIS WAS SYMBOLIC OF GOD'S LIGHT AND PRESENCE.

MANY YEARS LATER, THE TABERNACLE IS LONG GONE AND THE TEMPLE THAT REPLACED IT HAS BEEN DESTROYED. THROUGH THE PROPHET AND BOOK OF ZECHARIAH, SEVEN LAMPS APPEAR AGAIN:

ZECHARIAH 4:1-2 (NLT) - THEN THE ANGEL WHO HAD BEEN TALKING WITH ME RETURNED AND WOKE ME, AS THOUGH I HAD BEEN ASLEEP. 2 "WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW?" HE ASKED. I ANSWERED, "I SEE A SOLID GOLD LAMPSTAND WITH A BOWL OF OIL ON TOP OF IT. AROUND THE BOWL ARE SEVEN LAMPS, EACH HAVING SEVEN SPOUTS WITH WICKS.

ZECHARIAH 4:4-5 (NLT) - THEN I ASKED THE ANGEL, "WHAT ARE THESE, MY LORD? WHAT DO THEY MEAN?" 5 "DON'T YOU KNOW?" THE ANGEL ASKED. "NO, MY LORD," I REPLIED.

ZECHARIAH 4:10B (NLT) - ...THE SEVEN LAMPS REPRESENT THE EYES OF THE LORD THAT SEARCH ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

SO THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE A TON OF CLARITY ON WHAT IS HAPPENING, THE REAPPEARANCE OF THE 7 LAMPS DURING ZECHARIAH'S TIME ARE CONNECTED AGAIN TO GOD'S PRESENCE AND AWARENESS OF WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON. WHEN LAMPSTANDS ARE PRESENT, GOD IS PRESENT AND HIS LIGHT IS SHINING ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF DARKNESS.

DANIEL 7:1, 9-10, 13-14 - ANCIENT OF DAYS & SON OF MAN

HERE WE HAVE A NOTABLE VISION FROM ANOTHER REVELATION, GIVEN TO THE PROPHET DANIEL. DO YOU SEE SOME OF THE SIMILARITIES?

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROPHETIC VISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. IN IT WE SEE A VISION OF THE "ANCIENT OF DAYS" (GOD) IN REGAL AND MAJESTIC GLORY. IN THIS VISION, "ONE LIKE A SON OF MAN (V. 13)" COMES BEFORE THE ANCIENT OF DAYS AND IS GIVEN "DOMINION, GLORY AND A KINGDOM" THAT WILL BE EVERLASTING (V. 14). GOD GIVES THESE THINGS TO A SON OF MAN. THAT'S AN IMPORTANT CONCEPT TO REMEMBER.

THE PHRASE "SON OF MAN" MEANS HUMAN BEING. HOWEVER, THIS PROPHECY WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT ONE TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD THAT THE PHRASE "SON OF MAN" WOULD BECOME ANOTHER WAY TO REFER TO THE MESSIAH THEY WERE WAITING FOR. WHEN THIS "SON OF MAN" APPEARED, HE WOULD BE THE ONE THAT GOD WOULD GIVE THE KINGDOM AUTHORITY TO. SO WHEN THIS "SON OF MAN" APPEARS, IT'S A BIG DEAL!

SO, FOR READERS OF THE GOSPELS, YOU WILL NOTICE THAT ONE OF JESUS' FAVORITE NAMES FOR HIMSELF IS "SON OF MAN". WITH THIS TITLE, HE IS CLAIMING, NOT JUST TO BE HUMAN, BUT TO BE ~~THE~~ SON OF MAN OF DANIEL 7. HE'S THE ONE THAT IS GETTING THE DOMINION, GLORY AND KINGDOM. THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, CLOTHED IN WHITE, GLORIOUS IN APPEARANCE TRANSFERS THE DOMINION, GLORY AND KINGDOM TO THE SON OF MAN AKA THE MESSIAH AKA JESUS CHRIST.

CONSIDER WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THIS TITLE:

MATTHEW 19:28 - AND JESUS SAID TO THEM, "TRULY I SAY TO YOU, THAT YOU WHO HAVE FOLLOWED ME, IN THE REGENERATION WHEN THE **SON OF MAN** WILL SIT ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE, YOU ALSO SHALL SIT UPON TWELVE THRONES, JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

MATTHEW 24:27 - "FOR JUST AS THE LIGHTNING COMES FROM THE EAST AND FLASHES EVEN TO THE WEST, SO WILL THE COMING OF THE **SON OF MAN** BE.

MATTHEW 25:31 - "BUT WHEN THE **SON OF MAN** COMES IN HIS GLORY, AND ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM, THEN HE WILL SIT ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE.

AND CONSIDER WHAT IS SAID OF AND BY JESUS AFTER HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION:

MATTHEW 28:18 - AND JESUS CAME UP AND SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING, "ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.

ACTS 7:55-56 - (STEPHEN), BEING FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE GAZED INTENTLY INTO HEAVEN AND SAW THE GLORY OF GOD, AND JESUS STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD; 56 AND HE SAID, "BEHOLD, I SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED UP AND THE **SON OF MAN** STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD."

REVELATION 1:12-16 — BACK TO THE VISION

AT THIS POINT IN HUMAN AND SALVATION HISTORY, JESUS HAS RECEIVED THE POWER AND AUTHORITY FROM THE ANCIENT OF DAYS AND SO AS JOHN SEES THIS VISION OF JESUS, HIS COUNTENANCE HAS BECOME ~~THE~~ THE ANCIENT OF DAYS AS A RESULT.

AND FOR THE CHRISTIAN IN ONE OF THESE SEVEN CITIES, UNDER THE THREAT OF PERSECUTION AND TRIBULATION AND MARTYRDOM DURING THE ROMAN EMPIRE, TO "SEE" YOUR LORD IN CONTRAST TO THE EMPEROR OPPRESSING YOU, SURELY WOULD GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE AND HOPE.

YOU AND YOUR CHURCH ARE TRYING TO SHINE YOUR LITTLE LIGHT BRIGHTLY, TO NOT BE QUENCHED OR EXTINGUISHED AS DARKNESS AND EVIL BLOWS AROUND - AND YOU READ OF JOHN'S VISION. YOU READ THAT THERE ARE SEVEN LAMPSTANDS BUT THAT IN THE MIDST OF THOSE LAMPSTANDS STANDS THE GLORIOUS AND GLORIFIED SON OF MAN.

"IT MAY LOOK LIKE I'M SURROUNDED, BUT I'M SURROUNDED BY YOU" ISN'T SIMPLY A LYRIC FROM A MODERN WORSHIP SONG, IT'S THE ANCIENT REALITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE. THE FIRST WORDS OUT OF JESUS' MOUTH AFTER THE COMMAND TO "WRITE" ARE "DO NOT BE AFRAID (1:17)."

DON'T FORGET THAT INSTEAD OF A TONGUE, THERE IS A SWORD COMING OUT OF CHRIST'S MOUTH (1:16). THIS CERTAINLY MEANS THAT HIS WORDS ARE POWERFUL. WHAT HE SAYS IS GOING TO HAPPEN WITH THE SURETY OF A TWO-EDGED SWORD BEING ABLE TO CUT. SO CHRIST HAS THINGS TO SAY, BUT THE FIRST THING IS "DO NOT BE AFRAID" - THAT'S PRETTY POWERFUL FOR THE NEED OF THE MOMENT.

HOWEVER, BEFORE WE EVEN HEAR THE GLORIOUS CHRIST SPEAK - WE SEE HIM. JOHN SEES HIM. AS JOHN SEES THIS GLORIOUS SIGHT, THE FACT THAT HE'S A PRISONER ON AN ISLAND SUDDENLY IS AN AFTERTHOUGHT. JOHN HAS TURNED HIS EYES TOWARDS JESUS, AND THE THINGS OF EARTH HAVE GROWN STRANGELY DIM. THE TROUBLES AND TRIALS HAVEN'T LITERALLY GONE AWAY, BUT THERE IS HOPE THAT THEY WILL BECAUSE THE FOCUS IS NOT ON THEM, BUT ON HIM.

THE CHURCHES, TRYING TO FLICKER SOME LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD, SEEMINGLY SCATTERED IN A COURIER'S CIRCLE IN ASIA MINOR, ARE ACTUALLY KNOWN AND TOGETHER AND UNITED MORE THAN THEY KNOW. TROUBLE SURROUNDS, FEARS CREEP NEAR, UNCERTAINTY ENCROACHES, YET WHO IS IN THE CENTER OF IT ALL?

"IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAMPSTANDS I SAW ONE LIKE A SON OF MAN..." (1:13)

AND NOT ONLY HAS CHRIST NOT LEFT THEM NOR FORGOTTEN THEM. HE HAS SOMETHING SPECIFIC TO SAY TO EACH OF THEM.