

# Living Word Fellowship Church

## **Revelation**

### An Overview of the Seven Stars and The Seven Churches of Revelation

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#### I. An Overview of the 'Seven Stars' and the 'Angels of the Church'.

##### **A. The One Who Holds the Seven Stars:**

1. It shows Jesus as holding with a determined grip, seven stars, which represents the seven pastors (will be supported scripturally later) in these churches (1:20). They can also be presented as a single cluster of stars that shine as one (they should have only one message).
2. He holds these stars in His right hand demonstrating a position of honor and equality (the church represents His headship and body).
  - a) No church is greater than another. Churches are respected for the quality of their work not the quantity (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).
3. Christ walks among the churches. His walking demonstrates that the Lord continually patrols the churches and is always on the spot when He is needed.
4. His presence is not localized but coextensive with the church.
5. His walking also implies that He provides constant and vigilant supervision.
6. His holding of the stars and His continual walking among the churches also demonstrates His power and authority.
  - a) He does not ask anyone's permission. He walks as He pleases. He walks with this kind of authority among the seven churches (Rev 1:20 -- *"As for the mystery of the seven stars which 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."*)
  - b) "To do this, the attention is directed, in this case, to the fact that he held the seven stars-emblematic of the ministers of the churches-in his hand, and that he walked in the midst of the lamp bearers-representing the churches themselves; intimating that they were dependent on him, that he had power to continue or remove the ministry, and that it was by his presence only that those lamp-bearers would continue to give light. The absolute control over the ministry, and the fact that he walked amidst the churches, and that his presence was necessary to their perpetuity and their welfare, seem to be the principal ideas implied in this representation." (From Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

##### **B. The Angels of the Church:**

1. This concept begins in chapter 1:20: *"As for the mystery of the seven stars which 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."* (NASU)
2. Based on these passages of scripture 'the angel of the church' represents the main messenger in the church. The one whose primary function is the preaching and teaching in the church (1 Timothy 5:17). Key sentence: *"especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."* (The word 'those' because he is writing to the churches in Ephesus).
  - a) In the case of the apostles' deacons, they were created so that the apostles can have time to study and teach the word (Acts 6:2-4). From this time forward to when Christ called Paul; Peter is the primarily teaching for the apostles:
    - In the midst of all apostles (except for John, they all deserted Christ) Christ told Peter to take care of His sheep (John 21:15-17).
    - Peter was the primary preacher in the temple when three thousand souls were led to Christ (Acts 2).
    - Peter performed the miracle for the lame beggar at the temple that brought more notoriety to the establishment of the New Testament church and the second sermon of Peter.
    - Ananias and Sapphira - they fell dead before Peter not all the disciples (Acts 5:1-11).
    - When Christ knew that the apostles would struggle with Paul going to the Gentiles, Christ gave Peter the vision to go to Cornelius's house (Acts 10:1-23). It is because of this vision and Peter coming to the understanding of what Christ's plan to do with the Gentiles (Acts 10:34-43). This exposure was the main reason why the debate in Acts 15 was resolved that released Paul's ministry to the Gentiles.
3. Passages that support *"the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches"* are pastors:
  - a) *"For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts."* (Malachi 2:7; NASU)
    - If the priest rejects the word of God, their families became cursed (Hosea 4:6).
  - b) *"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!"* (Galatians 1:8; NASU)
  - c) *"and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself."* (Galatians 4:14; NASU)
  - d) *"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality."* (1 Timothy 5:21; NASU)

#### 4. The Pastor Teachers:

- a) Comes right after the Evangelist on the list of messengers for the establishment of Christ new nation to the world (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 2:9-10).
  - b) He is the one responsible for equipping the saints and establishing the vision ('work of service') in the church (Ephesians 4:12).
  - c) To Timothy, primarily he would instruct him as the primary teacher (1 Timothy 4:11-12, 16; 3:15; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 4:1-5).
  - d) It shows Jesus as holding with a determined grip seven stars which represents the seven pastors in these churches (1:20). These pastors serve as lights to the world. They can also be presented as a single cluster of stars that shine as one (They should have only one message). He holds these stars in His right hand demonstrating a position of honor and equality (the church represents His headship and body).
- The Word of God is the light (Psalm 119:105; John 1:1-4; 1 John 1:5-7) because Jesus is the Word and the light of the world (Revelation 22:5).