

## Daniel and Revelation Series

### Sermon 2

#### The Seven Churches

Text Rev 1:4-20

*Read 4-6.*

John's introduction. 7 Churches are in Turkey. See v. 11.

Note the order is clockwise.

Note Trinity.

Note we are to be priests. Ever wondered what God's people will do in heaven? They will be priests. To whom? Service.

*Read 7.*

Note allusion to Acts 1:11. Remember the rules of Revelation:

Let the Scriptures interpret the Scriptures;

Look for references or allusions to the OT;

Look for references or allusions to the NT.

Here is also an allusion to Dan 7:13. We will find many allusions to Daniel in this Book.

Note, those who pierced him. Allusion to OT Zech 12:10. I will not make reference to every allusion or we will never finish. I give you this one as an example, and I will give you ones I see as important to our understanding of the passage.

This suggests that when Christ returns perhaps those involved in Christ's crucifixion may be raised to see His return.

Note "peoples of the earth."

*Read 8.*

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*Read 9-11.*

Note v 10. How shall we understand this? Mainline churches interpret this very simply - they call Sunday the Lord's Day. Therefore this passage refers to Sunday. But are they correct?

Let's not forget the three rules:

Let Scripture interpret Scripture

Look for references or allusions to the OT;

Look for references or allusions to the NT.

So let's look at the possibilities:

1. It is another way of saying, "The Day of the Lord".
2. It was an anniversary of the death and resurrection of Christ – i.e. Passover. But there is no Scriptural evidence for this.
3. Emperor's day.
4. It was Sunday as most churches claim. The books I have read offer two Scriptural evidences for this. They are Acts 20:7 and 1 Cor 16:2. They claim Christians were referring to the day of the resurrection as the Lord's Day. There is also no Scriptural evidence for this.
5. There is one possibility that does have Scripture to back it up. Let's turn to Mark 2:23-28.

Therefore of all the possible meanings of this phrase, it is really only the last one that meets the requirements. John was in the Spirit on the Sabbath day.

*Read 12-16.*

The first sanctuary scene. The Holy Place,

Note, allusions: hair like wool – Daniel, Sword.

Who is this? Doesn't say, but let's read on.

He is walking among the 7 candlesticks. Is this literal or symbolic? Let's read on and find out. Let Scripture interpret Scripture.

*Read 17, 18*

Identifies Himself as Jesus.

Note the keys. Alludes to Psalms where David has keys to the kingdom of Israel. Christ has the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

*Read 19, 20*

Seven angels are seven messengers – maybe people who deliver the letter.

Seven lampstands are the churches themselves. This shows Christ's involvement in the churches.

Next time we will look at the churches themselves. There is one very important consideration here, and that is; are these literal churches that existed in Turkey at that time, or do they have a wider meaning. If the letters to the churches were only for the actual church members of those days, then we probably don't need to go any further. So next time we will look at some interesting historical events that may help us to gain a clearer understanding of this strange, but valuable book.

Let us pray.