

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Daily Devotional
Guide



WEEK 1

“Be A Doer”

Study: Revelation 1:1-3

Reading: James 1:19-27, Matthew 7:15-27

Memory: Revelation 1:5-7

Have you ever watched just the end of a movie and been totally confused by it? Most of the time, you are left clueless about many things when you only watch the last 10-15 minutes of a movie. This is because the end is a conclusion where it finishes the stories that were left open earlier in the movie. To really get the full appreciation and understanding of the movie, you must know what happened during the movie before you watch the ending.

Today, we are going to see that the book of the revelation is a conclusion to the Bible. It is not a stand alone book, but it ties together many of the concepts and themes talked about throughout the Bible.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though we often refer to the book as “Revelations,” the theme of the book as stated in verse one is the revelation of Jesus Christ. This book was inspired by God and written through the pen of the apostle John to help believers understand who Christ is and the events that will take place in the final days of the earth. Throughout the book, John makes it clear that the things that he wrote didn’t just come from his own imagination, but they were revealed to him by a messenger of God. To read the book of revelation alone will cause great confusion because it is meant to be the conclusion of the Bible. Thoughts and themes that run through the Bible are included in this book and many of the loose ends that aren’t fully understood are explained here (vs 1-2).

John asked his readers to do three things with this book and pronounced that all those who do those things will be blessed. First, he pronounced a blessing on all those who read the book. Books in those days were very scarce because everything had to be copied by hand. Many times, multiple churches shared one copy of a letter or book. If a church was privileged to have their own copy, that copy wasn’t lent out, but was read aloud for all who hear. We have the privilege of being able to read this book for ourselves, many of us in multiple translations!

The second blessing is not separate from the first, but parallel to it. Not only should the book be read, but those reading it should pay close attention to the words. In those days, those who heard the words would be the audience who sat to hear the word being read, today it is a challenge to us to pay attention to what we are reading. It is very easy to read, but not pay attention to the words that are read. When this happens, it does us no good.

The last blessing was pronounced towards those who obey the things that they have read and heard. Once we have paid attention to what we have read, we must choose to apply it. This is where the rubber meets the road and where true Christianity is revealed. We are encouraged, just as John's original readers were, to act on the Word because the time of Christ is drawing near. The things that are written in the book will come true, and since that is the case, we need to be actively obeying God in all areas (vs 1-3).

How Does this Apply to Me?

In Luke 11:28 Jesus said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it." In Matthew 7:24 Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." In Matthew 7:26, He also said, "And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand." The challenge to us from the Word today is very plain, simple and clear. It is not enough to hear the Word of God, but you must be a doer of the Word. When is the last time that you actually acted on what you heard? How have you allowed the Word to change your thinking in the past week or past month? It is vital that we don't just hear the word, but that we act on what we have heard. Choose today to be a hearer and a doer of the Word.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for revealing Himself to you through His Word.*
- * *Ask God to help you be a hearer and doer of the Word.*

Thought for the day

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is a conclusion to the whole Bible. Throughout the book, you will see many references to and quotations from almost every book of the Bible as the loose ends are tied together and Christ is revealed.

What do the words "The Revelation" show you about the book (vs 1)?

What is the theme of the book of Revelation (vs 1)?

Who did God use to write the book (vs 1)?

Why was John very qualified to write about Jesus (vs 2)?

What three things must we do in order to be blessed by the book (vs 3)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Describe how you can do those three things?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why is a person who reads the book of Revelation blessed? - See Psalms 1:1-6

Why are you urged to obey the book of Revelation?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can we learn about God from this passage?

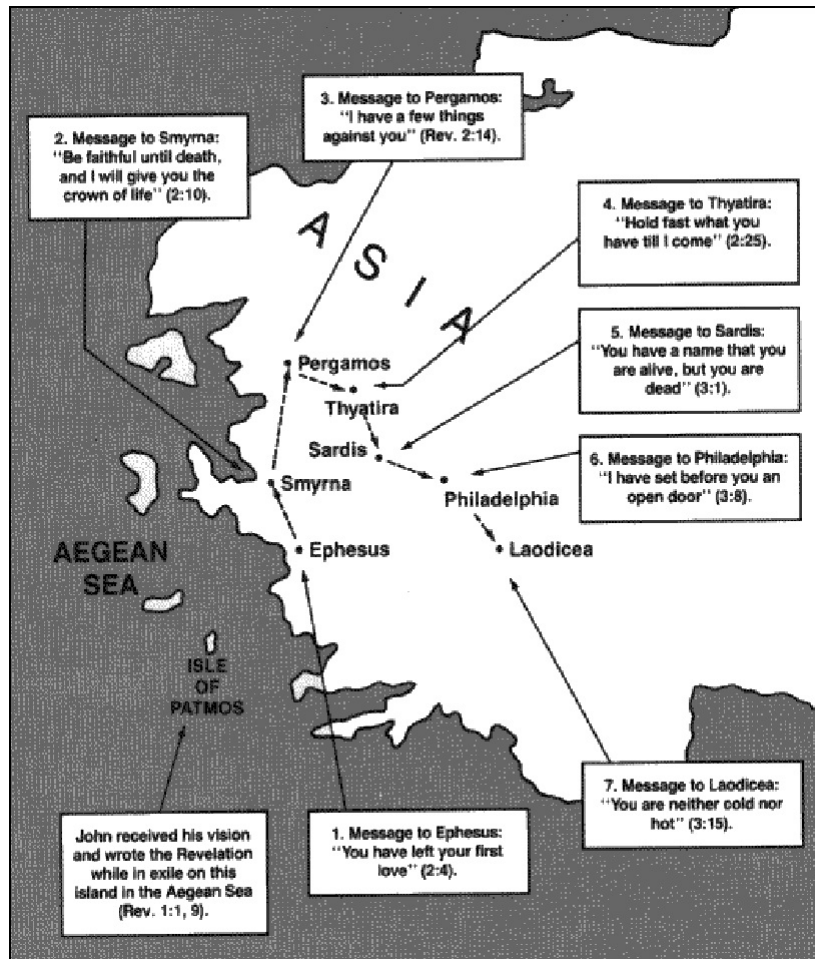
How can we take what we have learned and apply it to our every day lives?

“The Working of the Godhead”

Study: Revelation 1:4-5

Reading: Zechariah 14:1-9, I Peter 2:1-11

Memory: Revelation 1:5-7



The Seven Churches - From Nelson's Book of Bible Maps & Charts

What Does the Bible Say?

John was nearing the end of his life when he wrote the Revelation of Jesus Christ while exiled on the Island of Patmos. He had been involved with the churches in Asia and most likely had visitors visit him from these

churches. John greeted the readers and pronounced grace on them from “the one who was and is and is to come” (God the Father) and also from Jesus Christ and from the Holy Spirit.

The references to the “seven spirits” isn’t a reference to different spirits, but to the Holy Spirit who worked in all the seven churches that John was writing to. Zechariah 4:2-6 refers to seven lamp stands filled continuously with oil which was a picture of the working of the Holy Spirit (vs 4).

Jesus Christ is also wonderfully described here in three different ways. First, He was referred to as the “faithful witness” which referred to the life of Jesus upon this earth. He was the testimony to the world and declared to Pilate that He had come to be a witness of the truth about God and His plan for salvation (John 18:17). He was also described as “The firstborn of the dead” which Paul called Jesus in Colossians 1:18. He was the first true resurrection, and it is His resurrection that gives us all the hope that we will someday be resurrected. The third description was that of “the ruler of the kings of the earth.” Many times in prophecy the Messiah was the One described as having power over the world. This term described how no nation or people would be able to stand against God’s will and God’s plan.

Transitioning from the grace that comes from the Godhead to the glory and praise that is due to Jesus Christ, John reminded His readers how much Jesus loved all men, which was displayed by choosing to free us from our sins by His precious blood. His love was given by placing us in a position as children of God. He has also given us the privilege to rule and reign with Him when He returns to this earth and to be priests that can go directly to Him on our behalf and on the behalf of others (vs 5).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you find yourself so involved in the life that you are living that you forget who you are in Christ? You as a believer have the privilege of having God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit working in your life in all different ways. This is a gift given only because Jesus sacrificed His life for you and for your salvation. You are not only a child of God now but the benefits will go on for eternity. What an honor and privilege for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to desire that you become part of His kingdom. He desires that you serve Him not out of obligation, but out of a heart of love and appreciation as you realize all He has done for you. Take some time today to meditate on who your God is.

Who was John writing to (vs 4)?

****Take time to look at the map above to get an idea of where these churches were in relation to where John was.*

Why do you think many of the biblical authors introduced their writings with “grace” and “peace” (vs 4)?

How is God described (vs 4)?

Why do you think He is described this way?

What does “from the seven Spirits” mean? – See Zechariah 4:2-6

What are five descriptions of Jesus in verse 5?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How is Jesus the faithful witness?

How is Jesus the firstborn from the dead?

How is Jesus the prince of the kings?

How did Jesus love us?

What does it mean that the blood of Jesus washed our sins away?

What does it mean to be kings and priests unto God (vs 6)? - See 1 Peter 2:9-10

Why do you think John closed his first discourse with the phrase, “to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”?

What does this reveal about John’s great respect of God?

“The Alpha and Omega”

Study: Revelation 1:7-8

Reading: Luke 12:22-59

Memory: Revelation 1:5-7

My Freshman year of college, while traveling back from my house to college, I let one of my buddies drive my car while I rested in back. He liked to drive fast and I didn’t mind because that meant we would get to college quicker. When I said he liked to drive fast, I don’t mean that he drove a few miles over the speed limit, but he was driving at almost 100 mph. I never was nervous for us, but I was a little worried about coming across a police officer. Sure enough, when we went (almost flying) over a hill, there was a police officer with a speed trap setup. We were busted, and it only cost my buddy \$400.

Today, we are going to see how those who have rejected the Messiah will experience great fear and dread when He returns because they know they will be in trouble.

What Does the Bible Say?

After greeting the believers and declaring God to them, John told his readers to “Behold” what he was about to say. This was used to draw the attention of the readers to the important and fantastic truth that was coming next. John followed this up by declaring the promises that had been stated thousands of years before when God spoke through the prophets. Jesus Christ also declared that He would be returning to the earth some day. The idea that He was going to come in the clouds symbolized the presence and power of God. Supernatural clouds were seen throughout the Bible when God’s presence was near. Coming in a cloud will also be the fulfillment of the promises surrounding His ascension from the earth. He left the earth when a cloud came from heaven and took him away (Acts 1:9-10) and the angel that appeared to the disciples declared that He would come back the same way.

In some supernatural way the eyes of all men who live on the earth will see Him when He returns and they will realize that the promises found in the Word of God are true. This will cause great mourning among the people of the earth, some because of repentance, but many because of the

terror that will come upon them. A special reference was made to those who pierced Jesus as they will also see Him and recognize what they had done to their Messiah. John was most likely referring to a prophecy that was found in Zechariah 12:10 which described the mourning that will take place among the Jews when their rejection is revealed (vs 7).

The authority for the prophecy of this book was declared in verse 8 when God described how He is the “Alpha and Omega.” Alpha and Omega were the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and the declarations revealed how God was there at the beginning and He will be there at the end. It revealed that He had complete knowledge and complete control over the events and affairs of men. God also declared that He has always existed and will always exist, a fact that we can’t fully comprehend (vs 8).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What will be your response at the return of the Lord? Today’s reading reminds us to be ready at all times for the Lord’s return. It emphasizes the fact that the Lord will return and that His return will affect everyone, whether alive or dead. Those who have chosen to follow Christ will rejoice, but those who have rejected him will be filled with fear and terror. Take some time to read the supplemental reading today to read about the warnings of Jesus to be ready for His return. You can’t allow Satan to use the things of this world to lull you into sleep, causing you to be consumed with yourself and the things of this world. You must be ready and actively living for Him daily. Take time today to ask God what He wants you to do and then do it.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the reminders that He gives you in Scripture.*
- * *Ask God to help you to be ready daily for His return.*
- * *Praise God because He is the beginning and the end.*

Thought for the day

Verse 7

Who is coming in the clouds?

Why will He be coming in the clouds? – See Acts 1:9-11

Was there any doubt in John’s mind about the coming of Jesus?

What does John mean by “every eye shall see Him?”

****No one will escape – Taken from Zechariah 10:12-14*

What two groups does John place people in?

Why will there be wailing from these groups?

Will any of this prophecy change?

Verse 8

What did Jesus call Himself? Why?

***Alpha was the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega was the last.*

What else does Jesus refer to Himself as?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can we learn about God from this passage?

How can we take what we have learned and apply it to our every day lives?

“Being A Light To This World”

Study: Revelation 1:9-12

Reading: I Peter 1:1-25

Memory: Revelation 1:5-7

What Does the Bible Say?

Some of the Christians that John was writing to were under intense persecution by the Roman government. This is one of the reasons that John was on the Island of Patmos where he had been sent to spend the rest of his life. He acknowledged that he was a partner in their suffering and could relate with them, but he also wanted to give them hope by the things that God had revealed to him. John was not only part of the tribulation they were suffering, but he, like they, were part of the kingdom together. The idea of a future kingdom that one day will belong to those who suffer now has always been great motivation to endure during the difficult times of life (vs 9).

John then began to relay his experience and what was revealed to him. He started by describing how he was “in the Spirit on the Lord’s day.” There is disagreement among commentators as to whether “the Lord’s day” meant that this vision happened on Sunday or if it meant that he was transported in his spirit ahead to the day when Jesus Christ would come back. The actual meaning has very little significance because the point was that John wasn’t physically taken, but somehow supernaturally was revealed these truths about the end times.

The vision for John started when he heard a voice that sounded like a trumpet telling him to write down what he was about to see and to send it to the seven churches in Asia. Trumpets were loud and were used to proclaim events which seems to be



Replica of Candlestick used in the Tabernacle
From the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands

what the picture of the trumpet here is referring to (vs 10-11).

When John turned to see who was the one who was speaking to him, he saw seven lamp stands with a person who looked like Jesus in the middle of them. John had been very close with Jesus and knew exactly what Jesus looked like, but the appearance of Jesus here was symbolic of one who was about to bring judgement as we will read tomorrow. Seven is the number of perfection and the seven candlesticks referred to the seven churches being the light to the current world. Symbolically, the lamp stands were a picture of the power that the seven churches had as the light in the current darkness of the world. They were to proclaim Christ and the truth of His kingdom (vs 12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How are you being a light to the world? Do you really believe that one day Jesus will return, pronouncing judgment on an unsaved world and establishing an earthly kingdom? This reality gave hope to the suffering believers of John’s day and has given hope to people throughout the centuries. The Bible is full of constant hope and promises, which sometimes in our culture are hard to understand.

“Why do we need Christ to return when we have it so good here on this earth?” Though many believers will not verbally say this, they live their lives this way. They get soaked up and consumed in the pleasures of this world that they have little or no desire for Christ to return. If this describes you, you are not alone. This even happened to some of the churches mentioned in the reading today. Don’t use them as an excuse though, use them as a warning and challenge to have the right thinking which will motivate you to right actions in your daily life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you hope for the future.*
- * *Ask God to help you live with the future in mind.*

Thought for the day

Verse 9

How did John describe himself? Why?

Why was John suffering?

What can you learn from this?

Why was John on the island of Patmos?

What was Patmos like?

Was it part of God's plan for John to be sent to Patmos?

Verses 10-11

What is "the Lord's day"?

What does it mean that John "was in the Spirit"?

****Like a trance - see II Corinthians 12:2-4*

Should we seek for this type of experience today?

What did John hear behind him? What did he mean?

Who was speaking to Him?

What did He tell John to do?

Verses 12

What did John see first?

Why were there seven?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can we learn about God from this passage?

How can we take what we have learned and apply it to our every day lives?

"Jesus As Judge"

Study: Revelation 1:13-16

Reading: Daniel 7:1-28

Memory: Revelation 1:5-7

What Does the Bible Say?

The first thing that John noticed when he turned around was the seven lamp stands, but the second thing, which was much more predominant, was a man that looked like the Son of God. John clearly knew what Jesus looked like after spending almost every day with Him for three years. Though he knew what Jesus looked like, and the resemblance was there, the man he saw had some very distinctive features. It was Jesus whom he saw, but Jesus looked different because of the symbolism that he represented.

Jesus was wearing a long robe which was usually worn by royalty or prophets. This robe, described as having a sash, was probably similar to robe the high priests of Israel would have worn. Several times in Scripture, and specifically in the book of Hebrews, Jesus is pictured as being a high priest (vs 13).

The imagery that John presented next was like that which was found in Daniel 7:9 which prophesied about the coming Messiah and the time when He would come to judge the earth and establish His kingdom. His hair was white as snow, which was a connotation for something that was bright or shiny, almost as if it was glowing. This type of description was also used to describe the transfiguration (Matt 17:2) and the appearance of the angel after the resurrection of Jesus (Matt 28:2). It symbolized the glory of God and His purity.

John also described the eyes of Jesus like a flaming fire. Fire was used often as a symbol of judgement as fire was used to remove impurities. 1 Corinthians 3 describes how the works of believers will be tried with fire (vs 14). The bronze feet also pictured judgement. Rulers would normally stand higher than the people they ruled over, and the term "under their feet" was that of subjection by the people of the nation.

The voice in which Jesus spoke was no ordinary voice, but was like a loud roar, similar to that of huge waves crashing into the shore. The difference between a trumpet (which was used to describe His voice earlier) and waves were that waves were violent and distorted, and a

trumpet sound was more clear. The violent waves were another symbol of destruction (vs 15).

He held seven stars in His hand (we will discuss this with verse 20) and had a sword sticking out of His mouth. The sharp sword was another symbol of judgement describing how Jesus was ready to fight. His face also was bright and shining like that of the bright sun which is difficult to look at. This is similar to that of Moses who had been with God on Mt. Sinai and had to put a veil over his shining face for the children of Israel's sake. It symbolized the great glory of God (vs 16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you fooling around with your life and the things of this world? Have you been allowing earthly pleasures and the thrills of this life to draw your attention away from God? You can see from today's reading that choosing to follow God is no small matter. Christ is going to return one day to judge this world and the picture given of Him is one of fierce judgment. God is serious about holiness and He hates sin. The Israelites found this out often as they faced the judgment and wrath of God when they strayed from Him. I don't want you to get the picture that God is only fierce and angry, waiting to punish you for every wrong move, but I don't think that we as believers take Him serious enough. We often hear His Word, but it is easy to pick and choose what we want to obey according to our lifestyles and our personal desires. This is not how God wants you to serve. He wants you to live wholeheartedly for Him, remembering that your life in eternity will be far more valuable to you than your life here on this earth. Choose today to be serious about following Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for revealing Himself to you in His Word.*
- * *Ask God to help you get serious about following Him.*
- * *Praise God because He is grand and glorious.*

Thought for the day

Who did John see in the middle of the candlesticks?

How does John describe him?

Why do you think that his head and hair were white?

What does it mean that "his eyes were as a flame of fire"?

. . . the omniscience of Christ, which reaches to all persons, and things, and is very searching and penetrating, and discovers and brings to light things the most dark and obscure; and also Christ's eyes of love upon his own people, which have both heat and light; Christ's love never waxes cold, and, being shed abroad in the hearts of his people, warms theirs; and in the light of his gracious countenance do they see light; and his love, like flames of fire, melts their souls into a true and genuine repentance for sin:
- John Gill's Expositor

What do the feet of brass symbolize?

. . . continues the obvious sequence by making a clear reference to judgment on sinners in the church. Kings in ancient times sat on elevated thrones, so those being judged would always be beneath the king's feet. The feet of a king thus came to symbolize his authority. The red-hot, glowing feet of the Lord Jesus Christ pictures Him moving through His church to exercise His chastening authority, ready to deal out remedial pain, if need be, to sinning Christians - MacArthur NT Commentary

What is the difference between the voice of the trumpet and the voice of many waters?

What did he have in his right hand?

Who are the angels?

Why does a sword come out of His mouth?

How is His face described? Why?

“Encountering God’s Glory”

Study: Revelation 1:17-20

Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8, Genesis 32:22-31

Memory: Revelation 1:5-7

Over the years, I had the privilege of getting to know one of the men that I respect most in the ministry. His name is Les Ollila and he was the president of the Bible college that I attended. I have had several different conversations with him and he has always been gracious and kind to me. He always made me feel like we were coworkers for the kingdom. His wisdom and years of experience, along with His heart for God, gives me a great respect for Him as a leader and teacher.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus was a friend to the disciples and is our friend today, but He is so much more than just a friend. He is clothed in power, majesty and glory and we need to treat Him with the respect and honor that is due unto Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

The response John had when He saw Jesus in power and glory was similar to that of other men in Scripture when they saw God. What he had seen was so overwhelming that it caused him to faint in front of Jesus. As this happened, Jesus went to John and gently placed His hand on him, telling him not to be afraid. I would imagine that John’s mind quickly raced back to the times while Jesus was alive and the assurance Jesus would give His disciples that everything would be okay. This time, He not only assured John of that, but He described Himself as God by saying that He was the “First and the Last.” This is very similar to how God described himself as the “I AM” to Moses and the children of Israel.

He then went on to describe the reason for His power. He died on the cross and rose again. This gave Him the ability to live forever in all power and majesty. He also described to John how He had the “keys of hell and death.” According to the IVP Bible Background Commentary,

In the Old Testament (Ps 9:13; 107:18) and Jewish literature, “the gates of Hades” referred to the realm of the dead and thus to the power of death; one who held the keys to these realms thus ruled over them. (Whoever held the keys in a royal house held a position of great authority in that house, as in Is 22:21–22; keys symbolized

authority to control whatever they opened, and Jewish texts spoke of God dispensing keys to rain, etc.) Jewish literature said that God had authority over death and the gates of Hades (Wisdom of Solomon 16:13). Christ’s power over death, as the one who had risen, would encourage his followers now facing possible death.

Jesus instructed John to write down the things that He would see so that believers would have a little clearer picture of events that were going to happen in the future. Jesus then began to explain the seven stars which he saw earlier as the “angels of the seven churches.” The Greek word translated “angel” originally meant “messenger.” It doesn’t appear that the angels referred to here are actual angels but it is more likely that they were the seven messengers who would deliver the messages that John wrote down for them to the seven churches. This makes a little more sense when we see the specific rebukes and praises that Jesus gave to each of the churches (vs 17-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

One of the great problems that Christianity faces today is the attempt to bring God down to man’s level. There has been a conscious attempt to present a “hang with Jesus” mentality. And yes, the disciples did “hang with Jesus” for the time He ministered with them, but it was clearly a teacher student relationship. This doesn’t mean that they weren’t friends, but it does mean that their friendship carried great respect. God wants us to have a proper fear of Him, balanced with a proper view of love for Him.

Scripture recorded several people who had confrontations with God as they saw some of His true glory. The response of those who saw this was awe, fear and amazement. When we try to pull God down to our level, we often remove the awe and fear of God that makes Him truly God. This is why it is so important to view God as powerful, majestic and glorious. Yes, He is a personal God, but He is also a God that is too wonderful and marvelous for our minds to comprehend.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for being a marvelous and glorious God.*
- * *Ask God to give you a greater awe and respect for Him.*
- * *Praise God because of His great might and power.*

Verses 17-18

What happened when John first saw Jesus?

Why did he faint?

What do all these verses have in common?

What does this tell us about God?

What did Jesus do after John fainted?

What does this show us about God?

What phrases did Jesus use to calm the fears of John and what did He mean by the phrases?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How can these things be a comfort to us today?

Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Verses 19-20

What did Jesus tell John to write?

What does the word “mystery” mean? (It is mentioned 27 times in the New Testament)

****Something that was hidden that is now revealed*

What did the stars and the candlesticks stand for?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to our everyday life?