

## Message One

### The Faithful Witness of God for the Testimony of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Rev. 1:1-2, 5, 9-12; 7:9-17; 19:10

**Rev. 1:1-2**—The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made *it* known by signs, sending *it* by His angel to His slave John, <sup>2</sup>Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* all that he saw.

**Rev. 1:5**—And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

**Rev. 1:9-12**—I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea. <sup>12</sup>And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,

**Rev. 7:9-17**—After these things I saw, and behold, *there was* a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cry with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>Saying, Amen. The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanks and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. <sup>13</sup>And one of the elders answered, saying to me, These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where did they come from? <sup>14</sup>And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Because of this they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will tabernacle over them. <sup>16</sup>They will not hunger anymore, neither will they thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat upon them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to springs of waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

**Rev. 19:10**—And I fell before his feet to worship him. And he said to me, Do not do this. I am your fellow slave and *a fellow slave* of your brothers who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of the prophecy.

#### **I. Christ is the faithful Witness of God, the testimony and expression of God; His expressing God is His witnessing—Rev. 1:5; 3:14:**

**Rev. 1:5**—And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

**Rev. 3:14**—And to the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God:

- A. Christ is the Witness of God, the testimony and expression of God; the church is the testimony and expression of Christ; as such, the church is the reproduction of the testimony and expression of God in Christ—1:5.

**Rev. 1:5**—And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

- B. Revelation presents to us the revealed Christ and the testifying church, which is the testimony of Jesus; Christ is the testimony of God, and the church is the testimony of Jesus, the enlarged Christ as the corporate expression of the Triune God—John 1:18; 5:31-37; 8:14; Rev. 1:2, 5, 9; 19:10; cf. Gen. 1:26.

**John 1:18**—No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

**John 5:31-37**—If I testify concerning Myself, My testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup>There is another who testifies concerning Me, and I know that the testimony which he testifies concerning Me is true. <sup>33</sup>You have sent *people* to John, and he has testified to the truth. <sup>34</sup>But *it is* not from man *that* I receive My testimony, but I say these things that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was the lamp that was burning and shining, and you were willing to exult for a while in his light. <sup>36</sup>But I have the testimony *which is* greater than *that* of John, for the works which the Father has given Me to finish, the works themselves which I do, testify concerning Me that the Father has sent Me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent Me, He has testified concerning Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor have you seen His form,

**John 8:14**—Jesus answered and said to them, Even if I testify concerning Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

**Rev. 1:2**—Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* all that he saw.

**Rev. 1:5**—And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

**Rev. 1:9**—I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

**Rev. 19:10**—And I fell before his feet to worship him. And he said to me, Do not do this. I am your fellow slave and *a fellow slave* of your brothers who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of the prophecy.

**cf. Gen. 1:26**—And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

## **II. The testimony of Jesus is the seven golden lampstands—golden (divine) in nature, shining in darkness, and identical with one another—Rev. 1:1-2, 9-12:**

**Rev. 1:1-2**—The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made *it* known by signs, sending *it* by His angel

to His slave John, <sup>2</sup>Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* all that he saw.

**Rev. 1:9-12**—I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea. <sup>12</sup>And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,

A. The golden lampstand symbolizes the Triune God; the Father as the substance is embodied in the Son, the Son as the embodiment is expressed through the Spirit, the Spirit is fully realized and expressed as the churches, and the churches are the testimony of Jesus—Exo. 25:31-40; Zech. 4:2-10; Rev. 1:10-12.

**Exo. 25:31-40**—And you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand *with* its base and its shaft shall be made of beaten work; its cups, its calyxes, and its blossom buds shall be of *one piece with it*. <sup>32</sup>And there shall be six branches going out of its sides; three branches of the lampstand out of one of its sides, and three branches of the lampstand out of its other side; <sup>33</sup>Three cups made like almond *blossoms* in one branch, a calyx and a blossom bud; and three cups made like almond *blossoms* in the other branch, a calyx and a blossom bud—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. <sup>34</sup>And *there shall be* on the lampstand four cups made like almond *blossoms*, its calyxes and its blossom buds; <sup>35</sup>And a calyx under two branches of *one piece with it*, and a calyx under two branches of *one piece with it*, and a calyx under two branches of *one piece with it*, for the six branches going out of the lampstand. <sup>36</sup>Their calyxes and their branches shall be of *one piece with it*; all of it one beaten work of pure gold. <sup>37</sup>And you shall make its lamps, seven; and set up its lamps to give light to the area in front of it. <sup>38</sup>And its tongs and its firepans shall be of pure gold. <sup>39</sup>It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. <sup>40</sup>And see that you make *them* according to their pattern, which was shown to you in the mountain.

**Zech. 4:2-10**—And he said to me, What do you see? And I said, I see that there is a lampstand all of gold, with its bowl on top of it and its seven lamps upon it, with seven pipes for each of the lamps on top of it; <sup>3</sup>And *there are* two olive trees beside it, one to the right of the bowl and one to the left. <sup>4</sup>And I answered and spoke to the angel who spoke with me, saying, What are these, sir? <sup>5</sup>And the angel who spoke with me answered and said to me, Do you not know what these are? And I said, No, sir. <sup>6</sup>And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts. <sup>7</sup>Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you will become* a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it! <sup>8</sup>Moreover the word of Jehovah came to me, saying, <sup>9</sup>The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish *it*; and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me to you. <sup>10</sup>For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice when they see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; they are the eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth.

**Rev. 1:10-12**—I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to

Philadelphia and to Laodicea. <sup>12</sup>And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,

- B. To experience the golden lampstands as the testimony of Jesus, the corporate expression of Jesus (Acts 9:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12), we must be filled with the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7) by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus continually (1 Cor. 12:3, 13; Rom. 10:12-13; Lam. 3:55-56) to bear the brands of Jesus (Gal. 6:17) as brothers and fellow partakers in the tribulation, kingdom, and endurance in Jesus (Rev. 1:9-10).

**Acts 9:4-5**—And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? <sup>5</sup>And he said, Who are You, Lord? And He *said*, I am Jesus, whom you persecute.

**1 Cor. 12:12**—For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

**Acts 16:7**—And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

**1 Cor. 12:3**—Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus *is* accursed; and no one can say, Jesus *is* Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.

**1 Cor. 12:13**—For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

**Rom. 10:12-13**—For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord *is* Lord of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him; <sup>13</sup>For “whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**Lam. 3:55-56**—I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, From the lowest pit. <sup>56</sup>You have heard my voice; do not hide Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.

**Gal. 6:17**—Henceforth let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the brands of Jesus.

**Rev. 1:9-10**—I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in spirit on the Lord’s Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

- C. The beating of the gold to form a stand signifies the believers’ participation in Christ’s sufferings; everything that goes on in our environment is for the producing of the beaten lampstand—Exo. 25:31; Col. 1:24:

**Exo. 25:31**—And you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand *with* its base and its shaft shall be made of beaten work; its cups, its calyxes, and its blossom buds shall be of *one piece with* it.

**Col. 1:24**—I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;

1. If we set our mind on knowing God—submitting to the inward working of the Spirit and to the outward environment—every circumstance will become

an opportunity for us to know Him—Hosea 6:1-3; Phil. 3:10a; Eph. 6:20; cf. Gen. 41:42.

**Hosea 6:1-3**—Come and let us return to Jehovah; For He has torn *us*, but He will heal us, And He has stricken *us*, but He will bind us up. <sup>2</sup>He will enliven us after two days; On the third day He will raise us up, And we will live in His presence. <sup>3</sup>Therefore let us know, let us pursue knowing Jehovah: His going forth is as sure as the dawn, And He will come to us as the rain, As the late rain which waters the earth.

**Phil. 3:10**—To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

**Eph. 6:20**—For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**cf. Gen. 41:42**—And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.

2. If a man does not know God in his lifetime, he has wasted his whole life; may the Lord make us willing to accept His dealings in our circumstances so that we may know Him more—2 Cor. 4:16-18; 12:7-9; cf. Isa. 7:14-15; 2 Cor. 5:14-15. **2 Cor. 4:16-18**—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup>Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

**2 Cor. 12:7-9**—And because of the transcendence of the revelations, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up. <sup>8</sup>Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup>And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

**cf. Isa. 7:14-15**—Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and will bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He will eat curds and honey until he knows how to refuse evil and choose good.

**cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-15**—For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died; <sup>15</sup>And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

3. The crux of the matter is whether or not one encounters the Lord as the great light in the midst of difficulties and trials; suffering can make us understand what we otherwise could not understand—1:8-9; cf. Eph. 1:17; Luke 1:78-79. **2 Cor. 1:8-9**—For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell *us* in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond *our* power, so that we despaired even of living. <sup>9</sup>Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

**cf. Eph. 1:17**—That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

**cf. Luke 1:78-79**—Because of the merciful compassions of our God, in which the rising sun will visit us from on high, <sup>79</sup>To shine upon those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- D. The shining of the golden lampstands is so that people may see the vision of the glorious Christ as the Son of Man walking in their midst; by knowing the Lord in the midst of the churches as the One who is living forever and ever, we can be assured of His presence in our spirit all the time; He lives always to intercede for us, He appears now before the face of God for us, and He will never fail us nor forsake us—Rev. 1:12-18; 2:1; 2 Tim. 4:22; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Num. 6:22-27; Deut. 31:6.

**Rev. 1:12-18**—And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>And in the midst of the lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment reaching to the feet, and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle. <sup>14</sup>And His head and hair were as white as white wool, as snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>And His feet were like shining bronze, as having been fired in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>And He had in His right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face *shone* as the sun shines in its power. <sup>17</sup>And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; and He placed His right hand on me, saying, Do not fear; I am the First and the Last <sup>18</sup>And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

**Rev. 2:1**—To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

**2 Tim. 4:22**—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

**Heb. 7:25**—Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

**Heb. 9:24**—For Christ did not enter into a holy place made by hands, a figure of the true, but into heaven itself, to appear now before the face of God for us;

**Num. 6:22-27**—Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup>Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them, <sup>24</sup>Jehovah bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup>Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup>Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. <sup>27</sup>So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.

**Deut. 31:6**—Be strong and take courage; do not fear, neither be terrified of them, for it is Jehovah your God who goes with you; He will not fail you nor forsake you.

- E. The shining of the seven lamps of the golden lampstands, the Lord Jesus walking in their midst with His seven eyes like a flame of fire, His feet like shining bronze, and the shining of His face as the sun indicate that we need more and more of the Lord's shining day by day in our daily life and church life

for more and more of His shepherding—saving, restoring, reviving, and deifying—Rev. 1:14b-15a, 16b; 4:5; 5:6; Luke 1:78-79; 2 Cor. 4:6-7; Mal. 4:2; Prov. 4:18; Psa. 22, title; 80:1-3, 7, 15-19.

**Rev. 1:14-15**—And His head and hair were as white as white wool, as snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>And His feet were like shining bronze, as having been fired in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

**Rev. 1:16**—And He had in His right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face *shone* as the sun shines in its power.

**Rev. 4:5**—And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

**Rev. 5:6**—And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having *just* been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

**Luke 1:78-79**—Because of the merciful compassions of our God, in which the rising sun will visit us from on high, <sup>79</sup>To shine upon those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**2 Cor. 4:6-7**—Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

**Mal. 4:2**—But unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, and you will go forth and leap about like well-fed calves.

**Prov. 4:18**—But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

**Psa. 80:1-3**—O Shepherd of Israel, give ear, / You who lead Joseph like a flock; / You who are enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth. <sup>2</sup>Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh / Stir up Your might, / And come to save us. <sup>3</sup>O God, restore us; / And cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

**Psa. 80:7**—O God of hosts, restore us; / And cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

**Psa. 80:15-19**—Even the stock which Your right hand has planted / And the son whom You have strengthened for Yourself. <sup>16</sup>It is burned with fire; it is cut down; / They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance. <sup>17</sup>Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, / Upon the son of man whom You have strengthened for Yourself; <sup>18</sup>Then we will not turn back from You. / Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. <sup>19</sup>O Jehovah God of hosts, restore us; / Cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

- F. Enlightening rests with the mercy of God; whenever God comes and bestows His mercy, the light of His countenance is our light, His appearing is our vision, and His presence is our gain—Rom. 9:15; Acts 9:3-4; Isa. 50:10-11; Num. 6:25-26:

**Rom. 9:15**—For to Moses He says, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”

**Acts 9:3-4**—And as he went, he drew near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?

**Isa. 50:10-11**—Who among you fears Jehovah; Who hears the voice of His servant; Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, And rely on his God. <sup>11</sup>Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, Who surround yourselves with firebrands, Walk into the light of your fire And into the firebrands which you have lit. You will have this from My hand: You will lie down in torment.

**Num. 6:25-26**—Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup>Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

1. In order to be enlightened, we must want and accept the Lord’s shining, setting our heart to be single in seeking the Lord alone with all our desire—Psa. 139:23-24; Phil. 2:12-16; 2 Chron. 12:14; 16:12; 34:1-3; Psa. 27:8; 73:25; Luke 11:33-36.

**Psa. 139:23-24**—Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup>And see if there is some harmful way in me, And lead me on the eternal way.

**Phil. 2:12-16**—So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure. <sup>14</sup>Do all things without murmurings and reasonings <sup>15</sup>That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, <sup>16</sup>Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

**2 Chron. 12:14**—And he did what was evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek Jehovah.

**2 Chron. 16:12**—And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet; his disease was very severe, yet even in his disease he pursued not Jehovah but the physicians.

**2 Chron. 34:1-3**—Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>And he did what was right in the eyes of Jehovah and walked in the ways of David his father and did not turn to the right or to the left. <sup>3</sup>And in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek after the God of David his father. And in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places and the Asherahs and the idols and the molten images.

**Psa. 27:8**—*When You say, Seek My face, To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.*

**Psa. 73:25**—Whom do I have in heaven *but You*? And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth.

**Luke 11:33-36**—No one, after lighting a lamp, puts *it* in the cellar or under the bushel, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter in may see the light. <sup>34</sup>The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is dark. <sup>35</sup>Watch out therefore that the light which is in you is not darkness. <sup>36</sup>If therefore your whole body is full of light and does not have any dark part, the whole will be full of light as when the lamp with its rays illuminates you.

2. In order to be enlightened, we must open ourselves to the Lord, turn our heart to Him, and place ourselves before Him without any reservation or holding back; those who close themselves to the Lord are experts in judging and criticizing others—2 Cor. 3:16; Prov. 20:27; Matt. 7:1-5; Luke 6:36-37, 41-42. **2 Cor. 3:16**—But whenever *their heart* turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

**Prov. 20:27**—The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

**Matt. 7:1-5**—Do not judge, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam in your eye you do not consider? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, Let me remove the splinter from your eye, and behold, the beam is in your eye? <sup>5</sup>Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.

**Luke 6:36-37**—Be full of compassion, even as your Father also is full of compassion. <sup>37</sup>And do not judge, and you shall by no means be judged; and do not condemn, and you shall by no means be condemned; release, and you will be released;

**Luke 6:41-42**—And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam which is in your own eye you do not consider? <sup>42</sup>How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me remove the splinter which is in your eye, you yourself not seeing the beam which is in your eye? Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter which is in your brother's eye.

3. In order to be enlightened, we must put a stop to ourselves; this means to put a stop to our views, our ways of looking at things, our feelings, our ideas, and our opinions; when a person who is completely stopped comes before the Lord, he can be exceedingly single and simple in receiving the word of the Lord—10:38-42; John 11:21-28; Isa. 40:31; Matt. 5:3; Luke 18:15-17; Isa. 66:1-2. **Luke 10:38-42**—Now as they went, He entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her home. <sup>39</sup>And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was being drawn about with much serving, and she came up to *Him* and said, Lord, does it not matter to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to do her part with me. <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, you

are anxious and troubled about many things; <sup>42</sup>But there is need of one thing, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

**John 11:21-28**—Then Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You. <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again. <sup>24</sup>Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day. <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live; <sup>26</sup>And everyone who lives and believes into Me shall by no means die forever. Do you believe this? <sup>27</sup>She said to Him, Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, He who comes into the world. <sup>28</sup>And when she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Teacher is here and is calling you.

**Isa. 40:31**—Yet those who wait on Jehovah will renew *their* strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and will not become weary; They will walk and will not faint.

**Matt. 5:3**—Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

**Luke 18:15-17**—And they were bringing to Him also their babies that He might touch them. But when the disciples saw *this* they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to *Him*, saying, Allow the little children to come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup>Truly I say to you, Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall by no means enter into it.

**Isa. 66:1-2**—Thus says Jehovah, Heaven is My throne, And the earth the footstool for My feet. Where then is the house that you will build for Me, And where is the place of My rest? <sup>2</sup>For all these things My hand has made, And *so* all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is* poor And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

4. In order to be enlightened, we must not dispute with the light of the Spirit who speaks within us, and we should not dispute with the ministers of the Spirit who speak without—Acts 22:10; S. S. 5:4-6; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; 11:2-3; Num. 16:1-7, 31-39; 17:1-8; cf. Exo. 33:11-14.

**Acts 22:10**—And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.

**S. S. 5:4-6**—My beloved put his hand into the opening *of the door*; And my inner parts yearned for him. <sup>5</sup>I rose up to open to my beloved; And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, Upon the handles of the bolt. <sup>6</sup>I opened to my beloved, But my beloved had withdrawn; he was gone. My soul failed when he spoke; I sought him, but found him not; I called him—he answered me not.

**2 Cor. 10:3-5**—For though we walk in flesh, we do not war according to flesh; <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds, <sup>5</sup>As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

**2 Cor. 11:2-3**—For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present *you as* a pure virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup>But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

**Num. 16:1-7**—Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben, took *men* <sup>2</sup>And rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly, who were summoned to the meeting, well-known men. <sup>3</sup>And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, You take too much upon yourselves, for all the assembly are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah? <sup>4</sup>And when Moses heard *this*, he fell on his face. <sup>5</sup>And he spoke to Korah and to all his company, saying, In the morning Jehovah will make known who is His and who is holy, and will bring him near to Himself; even the one whom He will choose He will bring near to Himself. <sup>6</sup>Do this: Take censers for yourselves, Korah and all your company, <sup>7</sup>And put fire in them, and put incense on them before Jehovah tomorrow; and the man whom Jehovah chooses, he *shall be* holy. It is you who take too much upon yourselves, O sons of Levi!

**Num. 16:31-39**—And as soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them was split open. <sup>32</sup>So the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households and everyone who belonged to Korah and all *their* possessions. <sup>33</sup>So they and all that belonged to them descended alive into Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the congregation. <sup>34</sup>And all Israel who were around them fled at their outcry, for they said, The earth may swallow us up too! <sup>35</sup>And fire came forth from Jehovah and consumed the two hundred fifty men who presented the incense. <sup>36</sup>Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>37</sup>Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to take the censers up out of the burning and scatter the fire about; for they are holy. <sup>38</sup>The censers of those who have sinned against their own lives, let them be made into beaten plates for a covering of the altar, for they presented them before Jehovah and they became holy. So they shall be a sign to the children of Israel. <sup>39</sup>And Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers which those who were burned had offered; and they beat them out as a covering of the altar,

**Num. 17:1-8**—Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>Speak to the children of Israel, and take from them rods, one for each father's house, twelve rods from all their leaders according to their fathers' houses; you shall write everyone's name upon his rod. <sup>3</sup>And you shall write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi, for there shall be one rod for the head *of each* of their fathers' houses. <sup>4</sup>And you shall place them in the Tent of Meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you. <sup>5</sup>And the rod of the man whom I choose shall bud, and I will put a stop to the murmurings of the children of Israel against Me, which they murmur against you. <sup>6</sup>So Moses spoke to the children of Israel. And every one of their leaders gave him a rod, one rod for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods, with the rod of Aaron among their rods. <sup>7</sup>And Moses placed the rods before Jehovah in the Tent of the Testimony. <sup>8</sup>And on the next day Moses went into the Tent of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.

**cf. Exo. 33:11-14**—And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent. <sup>12</sup>And Moses said to Jehovah, See, You say to me, Bring up this people; but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, I know you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people. <sup>14</sup>And He said, My presence shall go *with you*, and I will give you rest.

5. In order to be enlightened, we must continuously live in the light—Isa. 2:5; 1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:14; 10:22; Matt. 5:3, 8, 14; Psa. 119:105; Rev. 1:20; Psa. 36:8-9.

**Isa. 2:5**—House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of Jehovah.

**1 John 1:7**—But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

**Heb. 9:14**—How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**Heb. 10:22**—Let us come forward to *the Holy of Holies* with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

**Matt. 5:3**—Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

**Matt. 5:8**—Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**Matt. 5:14**—You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.

**Psa. 119:105**—Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

**Rev. 1:20**—The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

**Psa. 36:8-9**—They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. <sup>9</sup>For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

**III. The testimony of Jesus is the great multitude serving God in the temple, the whole Body of God's redeemed, who have been raptured to the heavens to enjoy God's care and the Lamb's shepherding with all the spiritual blessings in the heavenlies and in Christ that can be enjoyed today—Rev. 7:9-17; Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:14; Gen. 12:2; cf. Rev. 21:3-4; 22:3-5; Isa. 49:10:**

**Rev. 7:9-17**—After these things I saw, and behold, *there was* a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cry with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God who sits upon the throne and

to the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>Saying, Amen. The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanks and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. <sup>13</sup>And one of the elders answered, saying to me, These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where did they come from? <sup>14</sup>And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Because of this they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will tabernacle over them. <sup>16</sup>They will not hunger anymore, neither will they thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat upon them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to springs of waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

**Eph. 1:3**—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

**Gal. 3:14**—In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Gen. 12:2**—And I will make of you a great nation, And I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

**cf. Rev. 21:3-4**—And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. <sup>4</sup>And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death will be no more, nor will there be sorrow or crying or pain anymore; for the former things have passed away.

**cf. Rev. 22:3-5**—And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him; <sup>4</sup>And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

**cf. Isa. 49:10**—They will not hunger or thirst; Neither the scorching heat nor the sun will strike them; For He who has compassion on them will lead them And will guide them beside the springs of water;

A. The great multitude consists of those who have been purchased with the blood of the Lamb from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue to be the constituents of the church—Rev. 7:9a; 5:9; Rom. 11:25; Acts 15:14, 19; 1 Cor. 6:19-20.

**Rev. 7:9**—After these things I saw, and behold, *there was* a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands.

**Rev. 5:9**—And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood *men* out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

**Rom. 11:25**—For I do not want you, brothers, to be ignorant of this mystery (lest you be wise in yourselves), that hardness has come upon Israel in part, until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in;

**Acts 15:14**—Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles to take out from *them* a people for His name.

**Acts 15:19**—Therefore I judge that we do not harass those from the Gentiles who are turning to God,

**1 Cor. 6:19-20**—Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you have been bought with a price. So then glorify God in your body.

B. “These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”—Rev. 7:14:

1. The great tribulation in verse 14 refers to the tribulations, sufferings, persecutions, and afflictions experienced by God’s redeemed people throughout the ages—John 16:33.

**Rev. 7:14**—And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**John 16:33**—These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

2. The blood of the Lamb answers before God all the accusations of the devil against us and gives us the victory over him (Rev. 12:11); because of the redeeming Christ as the opened fountain of blood for all our sin and impurity (Zech. 13:1; John 19:34), we can plunge beneath that blood, lose all our guilty stains (*Hymns*, #1006, stanza 1), and “rise to walk in God’s own light / Above the world and sin, / With heart renewed and garments white / And Christ enthroned within” (*Hymns*, #1010, stanza 3).

**Rev. 12:11**—And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

**Zech. 13:1**—In that day there will be an opened fountain for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

**John 19:34**—But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

3. To wash our robes is to keep our conduct clean through the washing of the blood of the Lamb; this gives us the right to enjoy the tree of life and to enter into the city of life as the realm of God’s eternal blessings—1 John 1:7; Rev. 22:14.

**1 John 1:7**—But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

**Rev. 22:14**—Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

- C. Those of the great multitude are standing before the throne and before the Lamb with palm branches in their hands—7:9b:

**Rev. 7:9**—After these things I saw, and behold, *there was* a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands.

1. Palm branches signify our victory over tribulation, which we have undergone for the Lord's sake; palm trees are also a sign of satisfaction gained through being watered—v. 14; cf. John 12:13; Exo. 15:27.

**Rev. 7:14**—And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**cf. John 12:13**—Took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!

**cf. Exo. 15:27**—And they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees; and they encamped there by the waters.

2. In the Triune God as the temple of God, we will serve Him day and night to enjoy Him as the eternal Feast of Tabernacles and to flourish in life like the palm tree—Rev. 7:15a; 3:12; Lev. 23:40; Neh. 8:15; Psa. 92:12-13; John 7:2, 37-39; Rom. 1:9; Col. 2:19.

**Rev. 7:15**—Because of this they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will tabernacle over them.

**Rev. 3:12**—He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

**Lev. 23:40**—And on the first day you shall take for yourselves the product of stately trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God for seven days.

**Neh. 8:15**—And that they publish and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, Go out to the mountain and bring olive branches and wild olive branches and myrtle branches and palm branches and branches of *other* leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.

**Psa. 92:12-13**—The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. <sup>13</sup>Planted in the house of Jehovah, They will flourish in the courts of our God.

**John 7:2**—Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was near.

**John 7:37-39**—Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup>He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

<sup>39</sup>But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

**Rom. 1:9**—For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

**Col. 2:19**—And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

3. Our service in time today is a preparation for our service in eternity; God's only goal in time is to dispense Himself into us day by day; when God comes into us and comes out of us, that is service—Matt. 25:19-23; John 7:37-39.

**Matt. 25:19-23**—Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; behold, I have gained another five talents. <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master. <sup>22</sup>And he *who had received* the two talents also came and said, Master, you delivered to me two talents; behold, I have gained another two talents. <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

**John 7:37-39**—Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup>He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. <sup>39</sup>But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- D. We will not hunger or thirst anymore—Rev. 7:16a:

**Rev. 7:16**—They will not hunger anymore, neither will they thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat upon them, nor any heat;

1. To hunger and thirst is to have a hope that is not yet satisfied; Christ promises that everyone who believes into Him will be satisfied and receive Him as their satisfying life—John 6:35.

**John 6:35**—Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

2. To contact God the Spirit in our spirit is to drink of the living water, and to drink of the living water is to render real worship to God—4:13-14, 23-24.

**John 4:13-14**—Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again, <sup>14</sup>But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.

**John 4:23-24**—But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

- E. The beating sun and the scorching heat will not strike us—Rev. 7:16b:  
**Rev. 7:16**—They will not hunger anymore, neither will they thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat upon them, nor any heat;
1. The Lamb-God sitting upon the throne will tabernacle over us, overshadowing us with Himself—v. 15b; 2 Cor. 12:9.  
**Rev. 7:15**—Because of this they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will tabernacle over them.  
**2 Cor. 12:9**—And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
  2. There is one kind of life that is under God’s overshadowing—it is a life that is hidden in God—Psa. 36:7-9; Eph. 6:17; Psa. 91:1; 17:8; 57:1; Ruth 2:12.  
**Psa. 36:7-9**—How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Thus the sons of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. <sup>8</sup>They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. <sup>9</sup>For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.  
**Eph. 6:17**—And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which *Spirit* is the word of God,  
**Psa. 91:1**—He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.  
**Psa. 17:8**—Guard me like the pupil of *Your* eye; In the shadow of Your wings hide me  
**Psa. 57:1**—Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me; For my soul takes refuge in You; Indeed in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, Until the destruction passes by.  
**Ruth 2:12**—May Jehovah recompense your work, and may you have a full reward from Jehovah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.
  3. Christ as Jehovah and also as man is the King who is supplying, caring for, and covering God’s people; He is the King for ruling and a man who is like a refuge from the wind and a covering from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, and like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land—Isa. 32:1-2.  
**Isa. 32:1-2**—Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, And the rulers will rule according to justice. <sup>2</sup>And a man will be like a refuge from the wind And a covering from the tempest, Like streams of water in a dry place, Like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land.
- F. The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd us and guide us to springs of waters of life—Rev. 7:17a:  
**Rev. 7:17**—For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to springs of waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

1. Shepherding includes feeding; under the shepherding of Christ, “I will lack nothing”—Psa. 23:1.

**Psa. 23:1**—Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing.

2. We can never improve ourselves, and we need a shepherd to feed us all the time; He feeds the lambs with His experience as the Lamb of God, who is on the throne of God in and for the house of God—vv. 2-6; Rev. 22:1.

**Psa. 23:2-6**—He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside waters of rest. <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul; He guides me on the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk Through the valley of the shadow of death, I do not fear evil, For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, They comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me In the presence of my adversaries; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me All the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah For the length of *my* days.

**Rev. 22:1**—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

- G. He will wipe away every tear from our eyes—7:17b:

**Rev. 7:17**—For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to springs of waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

1. Tears are unavoidable in this age, but our tears are put into God’s bottle and recorded in His book—Heb. 5:7; Acts 20:19, 31; Psa. 56:8; cf. Mal. 3:16.

**Heb. 5:7**—This One, in the days of His flesh, having offered up both petitions and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him who was able to save Him out of death and having been heard because of *His* piety,

**Acts 20:19**—Serving the Lord as a slave with all humility and tears and trials which came upon me by the plots of the Jews;

**Acts 20:31**—Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.

**Psa. 56:8**—You have counted my wanderings. Put my tears into Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?

**cf. Mal. 3:16**—Then those who feared Jehovah spoke to one another, each with his neighbor. And Jehovah gave heed and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who feared Jehovah and considered His name.

2. Because the Lamb supplies us with waters of life for our satisfaction, the water of tears is wiped away—Jer. 9:1; 2:13; cf. 15:16; Lam. 3:21-25, 55-56.

**Jer. 9:1**—Oh that my head were waters, And my eye a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night For the slain of the daughter of my people!

**Jer. 2:13**—For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew out for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns, Which hold no water.

**cf. Jer. 15:16**—Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me  
The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of  
hosts.

**cf. Lam. 3:21-25**—This I recall to my heart; Therefore I have hope. <sup>22</sup>*It is Jehovah's*  
lovingkindness that we are not consumed, For His compassions do not fail; <sup>23</sup>They  
are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>Jehovah is my portion, says my  
soul; Therefore I hope in Him. <sup>25</sup>Jehovah is good to those who wait on Him, To the  
soul that seeks Him.

**cf. Lam. 3:55-56**—I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, From the lowest pit. <sup>56</sup>You  
have heard my voice; do not hide Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.

3. Thank God that the days of sorrow and the things of sorrow will not last; the  
world is passing away, and we are blessed to drink of the flowing Triune God  
until we become the totality of eternal life, the New Jerusalem—John 4:14b.  
**John 4:14**—But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means  
thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of  
water springing up into eternal life.