

THE REVELATION OF JESUS: SEVEN LETTERS: I RETURN

The letters to the seven churches in Asia have a lot that we can benefit from in our day. I especially like the way Jesus speaks of Himself to the Christians of that day. These letters were written in difficult times with various threats, issues, and troubles facing these congregations. We can certainly identify with many of these obstacles in 2024. May we have an ear to hear and heed what the Spirit is saying in our day.

- ***Here are the 'self revelations' OF Jesus in Revelations 3:***
 - ***He has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.***
 - ***He is holy. (v7)***
 - ***He is true. (v7)***
 - ***He has the key of David. (v7) (see Isaiah 22:22)***
 - ***He is the Amen, (v14) the unchanging 'yes' of god.***
 - ***He is the faithful and true witness. (v14)***
 - ***He is the source, the origin of God's creation. (v14)***

John had an incredible spiritual encounter with the glorified Jesus. Jesus 'reveals' Himself to John and to us so that we might come to know Him, love Him, worship Him, and experience Him as He truly is. There are some magnificent truths to be considered, meditated on, and prayed out in the verses we have read today. Let the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus to you in deeper ways as you think on these things.

The letter to the Church at Sardis:

3 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴ But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and

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before His angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ Revelation 3:1-6 NASB

- ***Jesus says, “I know your deeds, you have a name, a reputation of being alive and active but in reality you are dead.”***
- ***WAKE UP...strengthen what remains...(death is the ultimate separation).***
- ***How do you do that?? Jesus says it is by remembering how you received, what you received.***
- ***How did they receive the word and the Spirit at first? They did it with ‘buy in’, with gratitude, passion, and agreement.***
- ***They still have some things that can be strengthened and they have some people that are still connected and still in pursuit of God.***
- ***Everyone who hears, responds, and overcomes will be transformed and rejoice that their name is in the Book of Life...***
- ***He who has an ear...let him hear...what the Spirit says...***

The Letter to the Church of Philadelphia:

⁷ “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: ⁸ ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ Revelation 3:7-13 NASB

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- ***Jesus commends the church...he who opens doors no one can shut and shuts doors that no one can open.***
- ***Jesus says, "Behold, I have put before you an open door, because you have a little power, you have kept My Word and have not denied My name.***
- ***The Philadelphians had to deal with the 'synagogue of Satan' (the unbelieving group of hostile Jews). (see Revelation 2:9)***
- ***Jesus will make these Jews that did not believe in Jesus and denied His resurrection come to know that Jesus loves the Christians and the Church of the living God.***
- ***He says to the church that because they kept the word of His perseverance, He will protect them in the hour of testing.***
- ***Jesus says, "I am coming quickly"...He is coming back! ("I am coming" is found seven times in this book.***
 - ***The word quickly means 'soon'... it is the next step in God's master plan.***
- ***He who overcomes will be a pillar in God's temple...He will write on them the name of God...this is an honor, a reward, a touch of His favor.***

The letter to the church in Laodicea:

¹⁴ "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: ¹⁵ 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on

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***My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"* Revelation 3:14-22 NASB**

- ***Jesus says, "I know that you are neither hot nor cold but lukewarm so I will spit/vomit you out of My mouth.***
- ***The Laodiceans bragged about their riches, wealth and banking business, their textile industry, and an eye-salve that was quite famous.***
- ***Consequently, Jesus says that He finds them wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.***
- ***He tells them that they need to buy gold from Him that is refined by fire so they can be truly rich. They need to buy white garments that will cover the shame of their nakedness, and eye-salve so that they can truly see.***
- ***Jesus tells them that He disciplines and reproves those He loves...since He just reproved them, He demonstrated His love to help them repent and have a change of mind.***
- ***So, when He knocks on your heart's door...answer, respond, open the door (the handle is on the inside...) This is for ANYONE!***
- ***His promise..."I will come in and we will eat together." (No 'vomiting!' see v16)***
- ***Anyone who 'overcomes' sits with Jesus in Heaven.***
- ***He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.***