

“HE’S GOT THE WHOLE CHURCH IN HIS HANDS”

Revelation 1:16-20

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus has the keys of death and hell!

Do you have victory over death? Are you delivered from hell?

If you were to die today, do you know you would go to Heaven?

Today we see **three truths**: 1) Jesus is God; 2) Jesus reveals the future; 3) Jesus controls the Church.

- I. JESUS IS GOD (VV. 17B-18)
 - A. “I am the first and the last.” (17b).
 - This is a divine title: Is. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12
 - Compare also Rev. 2:8; 22:13—of Jesus
 - B. “I am the Living One” (18).
 - The expression used in the OT to distinguish the **one true God** from false ones.
 - Jer. 10:10; I Tim. 3:15
 - C. “I have the keys of death and hell” (18).
Therefore he says to John: “Write.”

- II. JESUS REVEALS THE FUTURE (V. 19)
 - A. Things _____—chapter 1
 - B. Things which _____—chapters 2 & 3
 - C. Things which shall be ‘_____ these things’—rest of the book.
This outline gives us the key to the entire book!

- III. JESUS CONTROLS THE CHURCH (v. 20)
 - A. The Seven Lamp-stands
 1. Number
 2. Name—these are not “candlesticks”! Compare the Jewish menorah.
 3. Identity—7 churches and **location**
 4. Function—“light”
 5. Place of service: **dark world**
 - B. The Seven Stars
 1. Their Identity
 - a. _____ (Read Seiss, p. 41)
 - The word “angel” is never used for Christian leaders in the NT
 - “Bishops” are not rebuked in the seven letters.
 - All the faults and virtues cannot be attributed to the pastor!
 - b. _____: Why would these letters be *addressed* to the messengers?

- c. _____—literal
 - How can angels bear blame for what happens in the churches?
 - Identifying them as actual angels would produce pure speculation as to their identity and function.
 - d. ‘ _____ ’ of the churches
 - cf. Dan. 8:10, 24 where the “stars” of v. 10 and shown to be the “people of the saints” who are under the protection of the heavenly beings.
 - The stars (angels) personify **the prevailing spirit of the church**.
2. Their Location (v. 16, v. 20)
 - The ‘right hand’ of power and authority.
 3. Their Significance
 - a. _____ by Jesus
 - b. _____ by Jesus
 - c. _____ by Jesus—cf. John 10:28-29—**Why worry?** Trust our Protector.
 - d. Special _____ with Jesus
 - e. _____ to Jesus

CONCLUSION

“He’s Got the whole world in His hand”

BUT ESPECIALLY HE’S GOT HIS PEOPLE IN HIS HAND!

Is your life willingly committed to His control?

Are you saved? Are you in His hand?