

*Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ*  
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

# John's Prologue

## Revelation 1:4-9



**<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” <sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.**



# Prologue

**the preface or  
introduction to a literary  
work**

Merriam-Webster



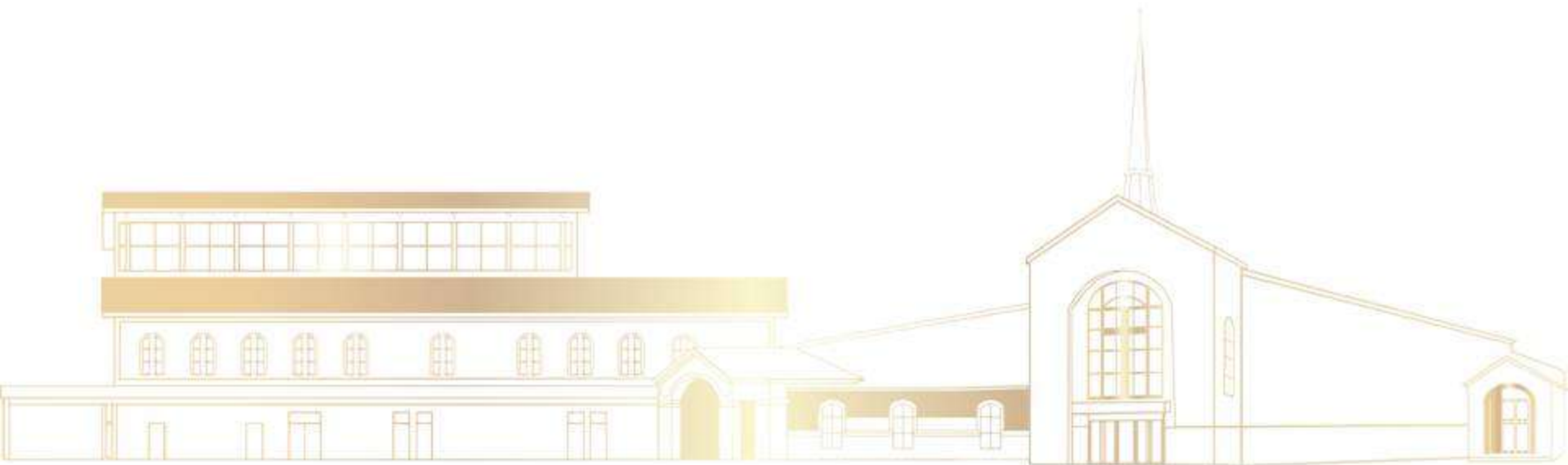
# Revelation 1:4



- **John** to the seven churches that are in Asia:
- **Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,**

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**Look at v. 11**



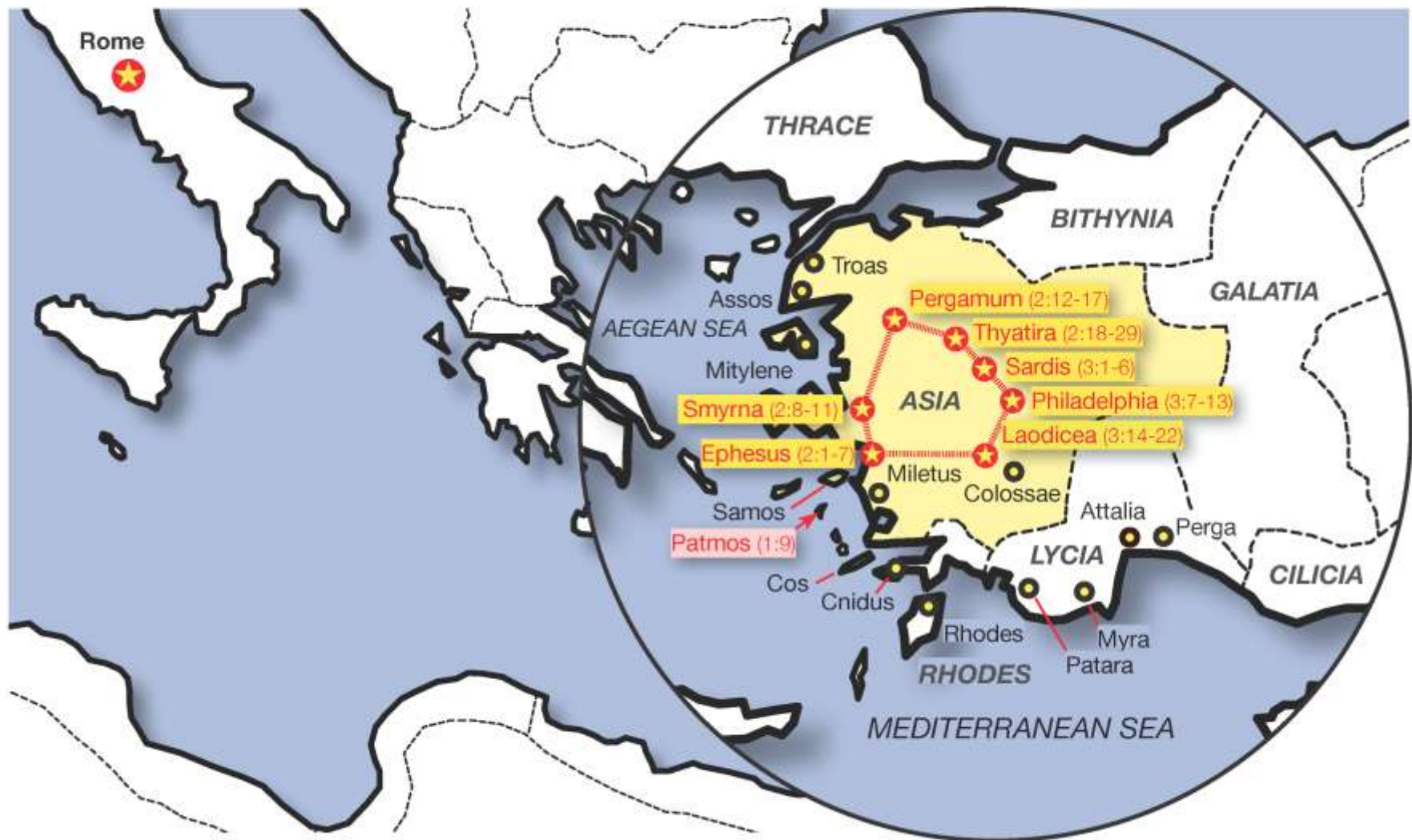
# Revelation 1:11



- saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

# REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

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**We cannot lose site of the reality  
that this letter was written to  
born again Christians—who are in  
the kingdom of God and  
connected to local NT churches—  
who would experience  
persecution/ tribulation and in  
some cases great tribulation.**





**1. The seven churches collectively represent all of the local churches in existence at the time of writing. Each church must examine itself in light of what is commended and rebuked.**

**2. Each church that gets a copy of this letter must take to heart the content and properly prepare themselves for the future.**



# Revelation 1:4



- John to the seven churches that are in Asia: **Grace to you and peace from him**

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**This book flows with  
trinitarian references  
and descriptions.**

**Notice the first of many.**



# Revelation 1:4



- who is
- and who was
- and who is to come

**This reference to  
“who is”  
comes directly from OT**



# Exodus 3:14

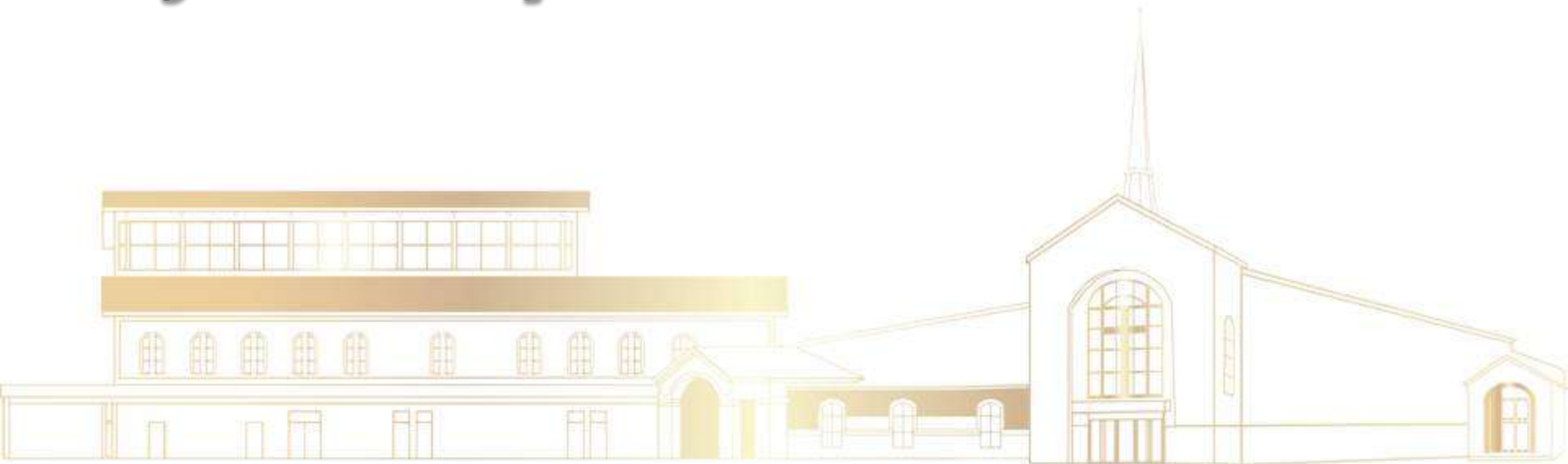
- God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**”
- And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

**I AM is I is**



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**John is NOT going to  
just say God the Father**





**This descriptive,  
apocalyptic, poetic,  
visionary language is what  
make Revelation such a  
difficult yet potentially  
rewarding experience.**



# Revelation 1:4



- John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

**Who is John  
referring to with  
regard to the seven  
spirits?**



**Since the reference to the  
“seven spirits” is sandwiched  
between a clear reference to  
God the Father and Jesus  
Christ the only referent that  
makes sense is God the Holy  
Spirit.**



**“Seven Spirits”  
matches up  
perfectly w/ seven  
churches**



What is the Biblical Significance of the Number Seven / 7?



*What is the biblical  
significance of the number 7?*

▶ 🔊 0:02 / 5:03



YouTube



[www.gotquestions.com](http://www.gotquestions.com)



**This 7 to 7 reference  
reminds us that Holy Spirit  
is more than enough for all  
the churches everywhere.**





**Revelation 1:5**



**and from Jesus Christ**

- 1. the faithful witness,**
- 2. the firstborn of the dead,**
- 3. and the ruler of kings on earth.**



# The Work of Christ

- **Prophet**

- Faithful Witness

- **Priest**

- Firstborn of the dead

- **King**

- Ruler of the kings on the earth

# Revelation 1:5



## •To him who loves us

**In John 3:16 God the Father is identified as the One loving the world. But here the Lord Jesus is the One who loves us.**

# John 3:16 (NET)

- For this is the way God loved the world:
- He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.



# John 11:5 & 36

- Now **Jesus loved** Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.
- Then said the Jews, **Behold how he loved him!**



# John 13:1

- Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.**



# John 13:23

- Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples,  
**whom Jesus loved.**





# John 13:34

- A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**



**The walking talking living  
breathing Lord Jesus  
loves people.**

**Consider Mark 10:21**



# Mark 10:21 (ESV)

- And Jesus, looking at him,  
**loved him,** and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”



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# Let me Show You

## John 15:13ff



**Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, **so that you will love one another.****



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# What does Romans 5:8 say?



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**Turn to**  
**1 John 4:7-19**





<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, **because God is love.** <sup>9</sup> In this **the love of God** was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> **In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** <sup>11</sup> Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and **to believe the love that God has for us.** God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> **We love because he first loved us.**



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**The reality of this love is  
supposed to have a  
profound impact on my  
LOVE life.**



# Ephesians 5:25-26

- Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,<sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,



**We are insulted**

**We are slapped in the face**

**We are cussed at**

**We are disregarded**

**We are NOT appreciated**

**We are disrespected**

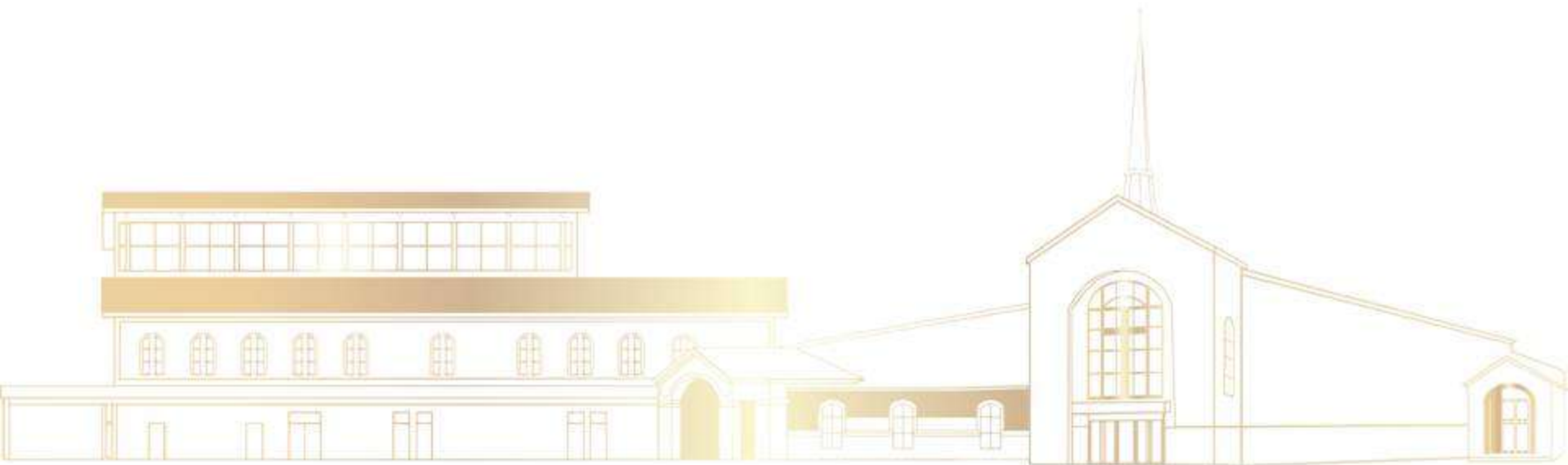
**We are ignored**

**And we still LOVE!**



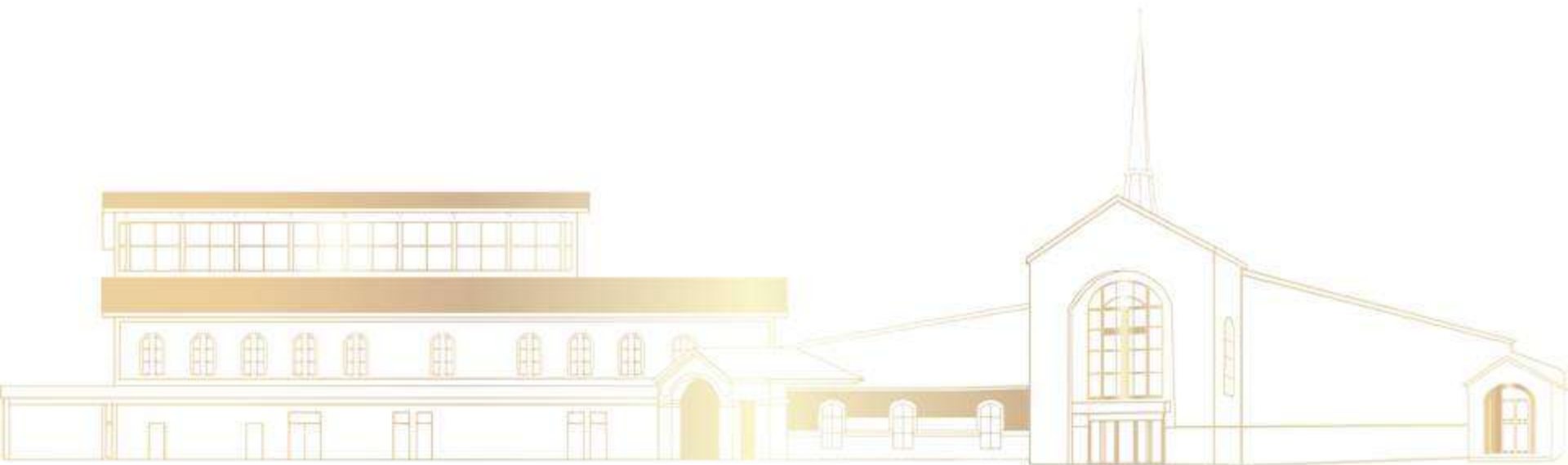
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**We Forgive When  
Others Don't!**



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**We let it GO! When  
Others Don't.**



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# Turn to

## 1 Corinthians 13:4ff





## **1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (ESV)**

**Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends.**





# Revelation 1:5 (NET)



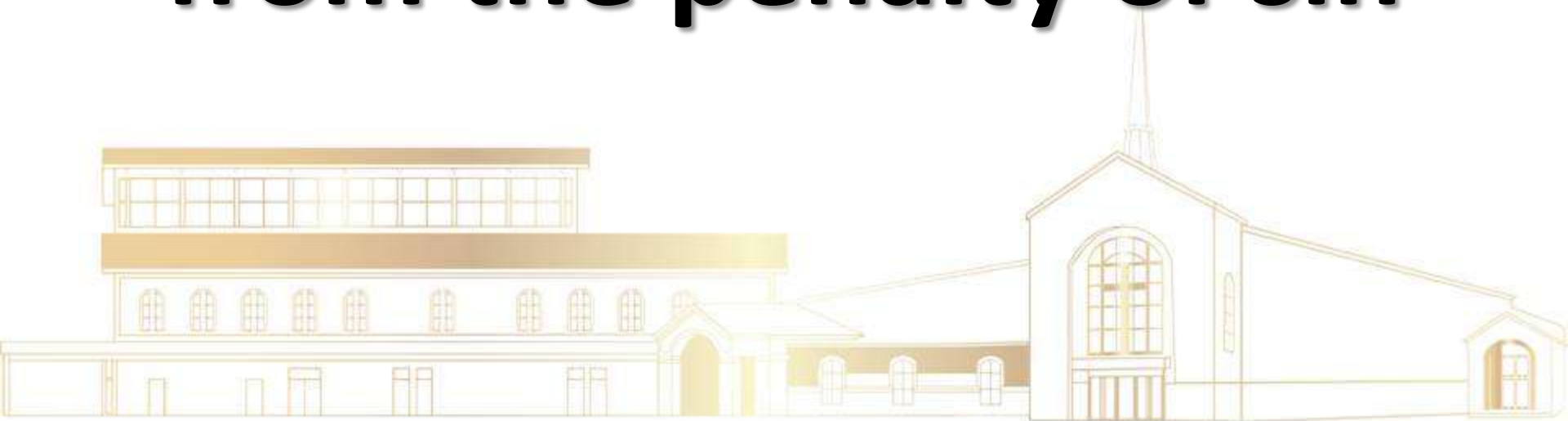
- To the one who loves us and has set us free from our sins at the cost of his own blood

**What does it  
mean to be set  
free from sin?**



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**Notice it does not say  
you have been set free  
from the penalty of sin**



**Sin does not have  
the same power  
over a Christian  
that it has over an  
unconverted man.**



# 1 John 3:5

- You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.



# 1 John 3:9

- No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.



# Revelation 1:6

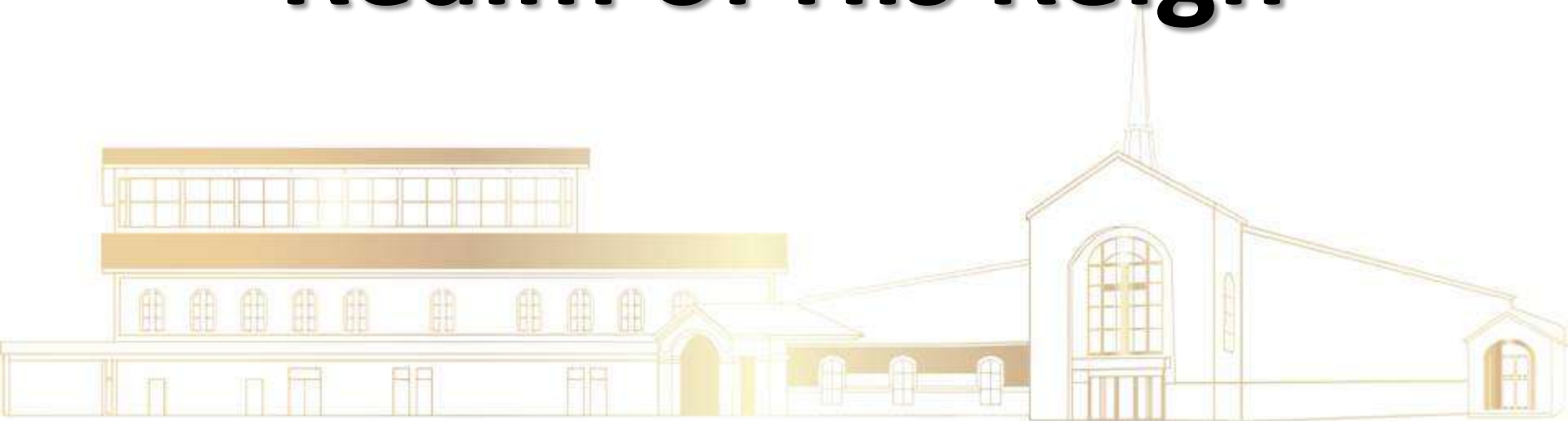


- and made us a kingdom,

**How do we pray in  
the model prayer?**

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**Made Us a Kingdom**  
**Reminds us of the**  
**“Realm of His Reign”**





**In the NT, there is a focus on both the local church with its elders, deacons, and members AND the universal reign of God—the Kingdom of God and His dear Son the Christ. Look at this book it is written to 7 churches with incredible focus on the Kingdom of God.**



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# Revelation 11:5

Contains an Incredible  
Promise Concerning the  
Kingdom



# Revelation 11:15



- Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

**Ultimately there are ONLY two kingdoms in existence today:**

- 1.The Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ.**
- 2.The Kingdom of this world with Satan as its god. (2 Cor 4:4)**

**Which one are you in?**



**In Revelation, both  
God the Father and  
God the Son are  
called King.**

**Is He your king?**



# Colossians 1:13 AV

- Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:



# Matthew 21:5 (NET)

- *“Tell the people of Zion, ‘Look, your king is coming to you, unassuming and seated on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”*



# Matthew 27:11

- Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.”





# Revelation 17:14



- They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

# Revelation 19:16



- And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

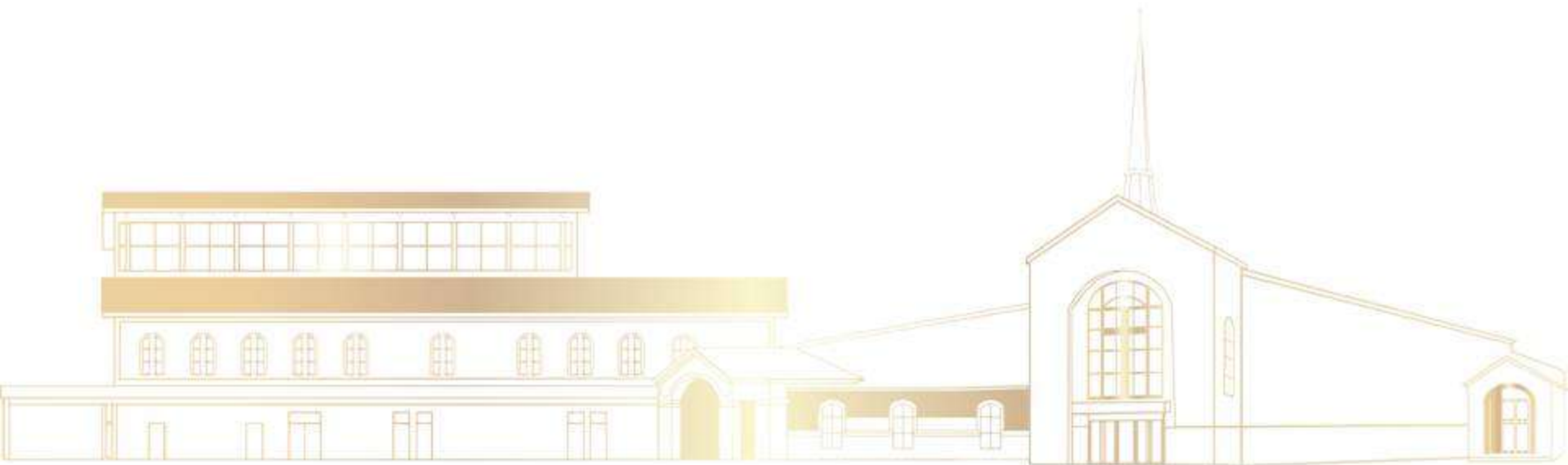
**Is He Your Lord?**

**Is He Your King?**



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**NEXT WEEK**



# Revelation 1:6



- priests to his God and Father,  
to him be glory and dominion  
forever and ever.
- Amen.

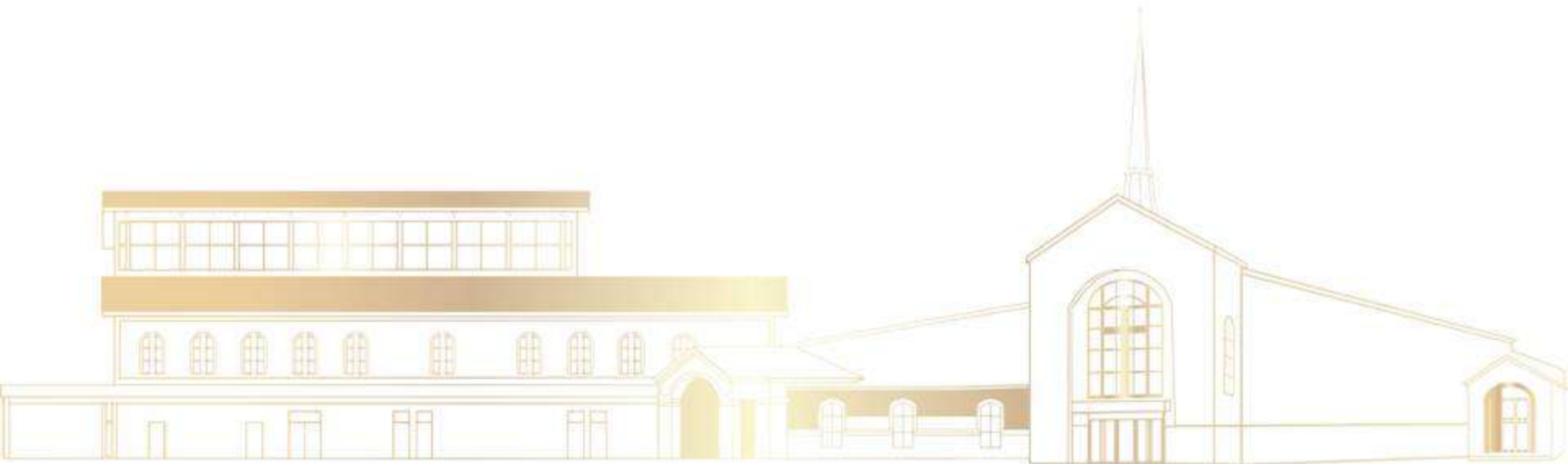
# Revelation 1:12



- Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

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# **A lampstand for each of the seven churches**



# Revelation 2:5



- Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.



# Revelation 1:14-15



- The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

# Revelation 1:16



- In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

# Revelation 1:17



- When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.
- But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last,

# Revelation 1:18



- and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

# Revelation 1:19



**Write therefore**

- 1. the things that you have seen,**
- 2. those that are**
- 3. and those that are to take place after this.**

**This last phrase in v. 19  
nearly assures us that  
this book contains  
futuristic prophecies yet  
to be fulfilled.**



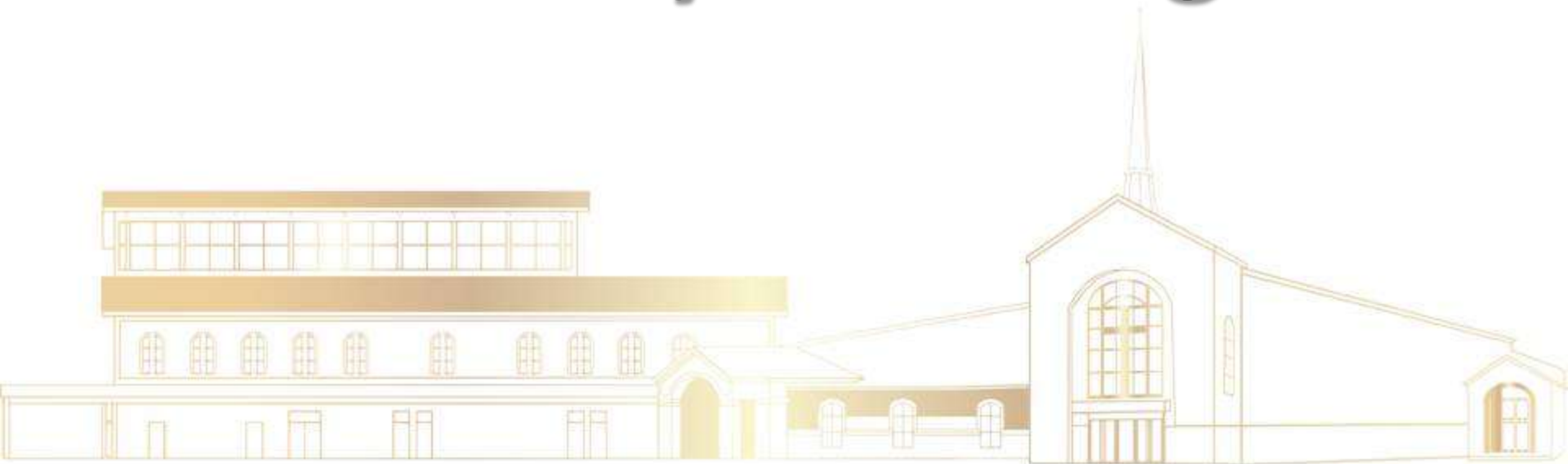
# Revelation 1:20



- **As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.**

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**Are the angels “angels”  
or are they messengers?**





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**What does the  
lampstand represent?**

