

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The Second Coming of Christ

Revelation 1:7



⁷ Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. ⁸ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.



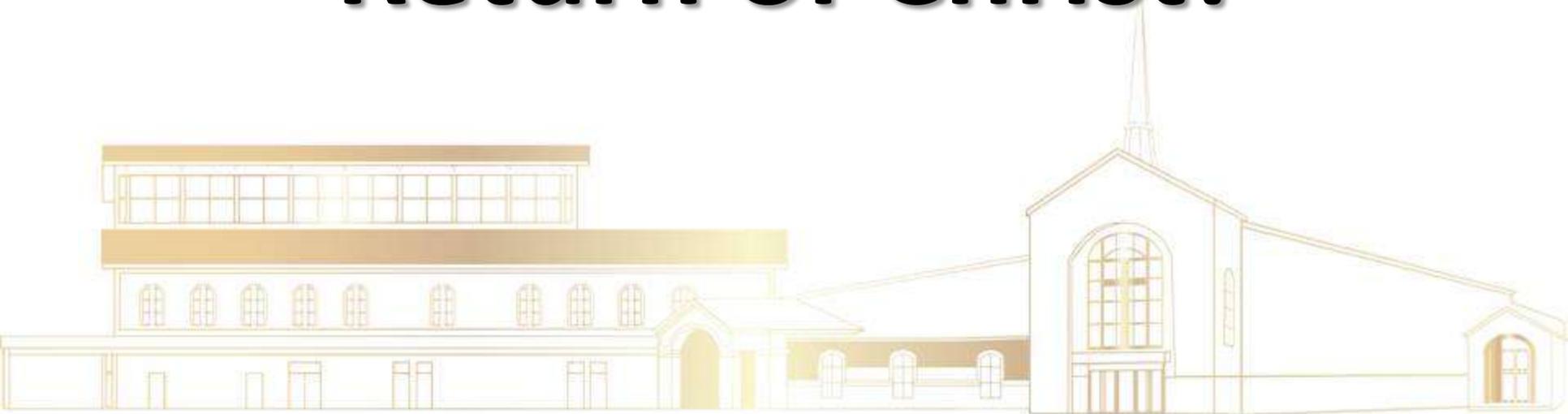
Revelation 1:7



- (Look! He is returning with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes on the earth will mourn because of him.)

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Nothing Hidden or Secret About the Return of Christ!



Jesus directs John to write to seven local Christian churches in Asia-minor about the return of Christ that is fully and completely visible to the entire world.

All the tribes of the earth mourn/wail (beat their chests) when they see Christ in the heavens.



**It seems to me that
“on/with clouds”
appears
to have a dual meaning
in this passage.**



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**#1 Jesus is coming from
the heavens NOT out of
the center of the earth.**



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Acts 1

Is the end of Jesus' ministry
on this earth.



Acts 1:9-11

- And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and **a cloud took him out of their sight.**
¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**”



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**#2 Clouds of heaven is
symbolic language
representing judgment.**



The “clouds of heaven” was a phrase often used when referring to the appearance or intervention of Yahweh on behalf of his people or in judgment.

Sam Storms

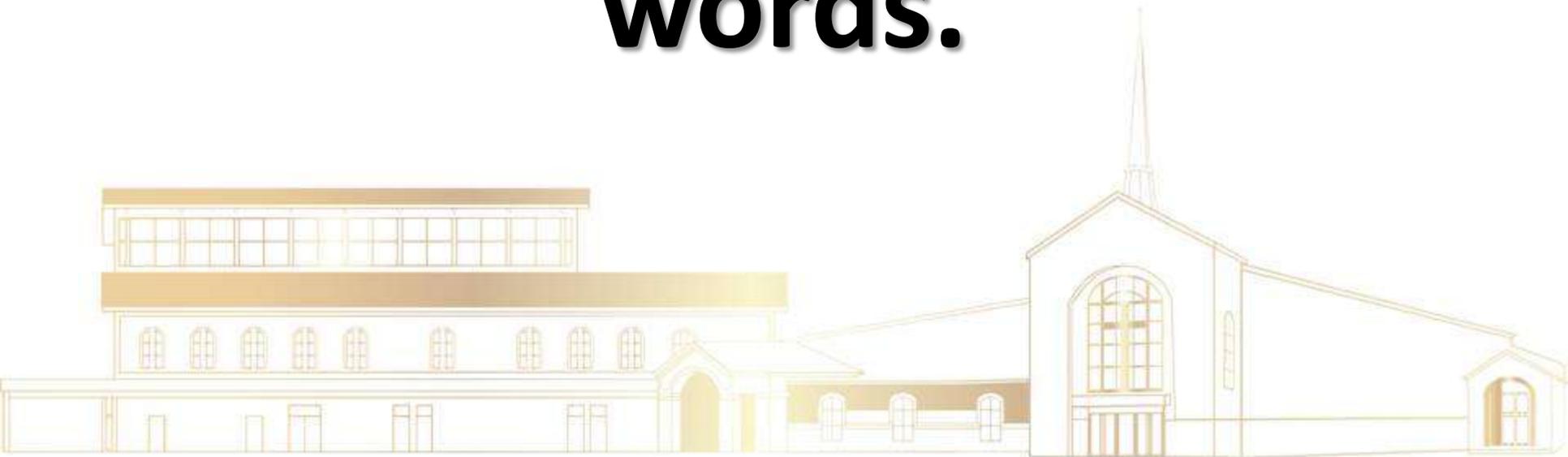


**Bill Sturm believes the
clouds of heaven
represent the armies of
heaven in Revelation 19.**



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**This is NOT the first
time John heard these
words.**



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Turn Back To
Matthew 24
(this is the Olivet Discourse)



³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and **what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” ⁴**

And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray.

⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. ⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.



11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.



19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.



27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. 29

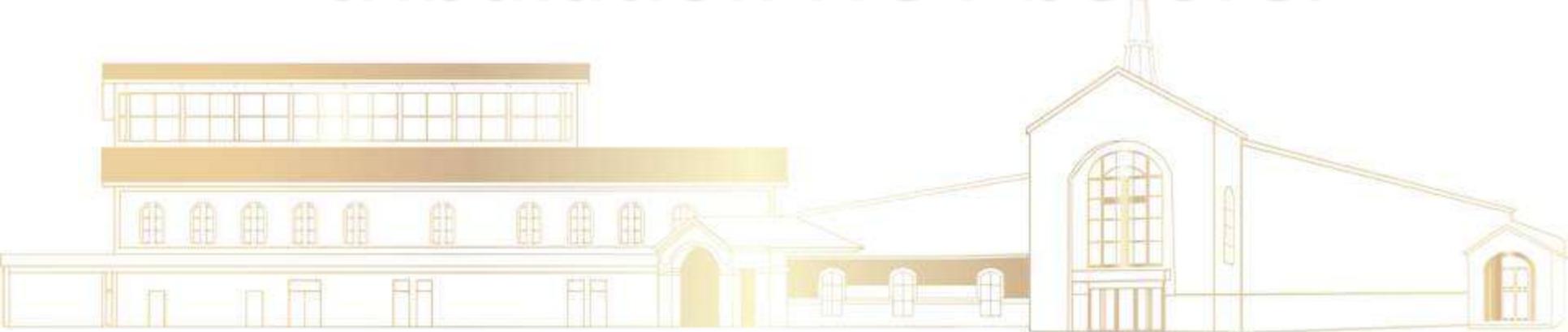
“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.



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Let's learn something.

John writes to the 7 churches of Asia about the Coming of Christ that will happen after the tribulation NOT before.



**Let me put
Matthew 24:30 next
to Revelation 1:7 so
you can see we are
talking about the
same event.**



Matthew 24:30

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then **all the tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they **will see** the Son of Man coming on **the clouds of heaven** with power and great glory.

Revelation 1:7

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.



29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



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**Note just how visible
this coming of Jesus is—
there is nothing hidden
about this Coming.**



Mark 13:26-27

- And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.



Revelation 1:7



- Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

At this point most people will agree that the Second Coming of Matthew 24/Mark 13 and Revelation 1 is the very visible glorious coming of Christ to judge the world, raise the dead, and establish His kingdom.

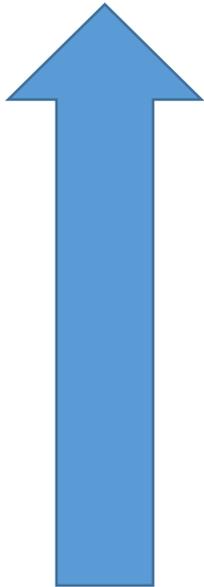
But they will argue that it is Paul the apostle to the Gentile church who wrote about the Coming of Christ that raptures the church before the tribulation in 1 Thessalonians 4.



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What is the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming?

Question: "What is the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming?"



Answer: The rapture and the second coming of Christ are often confused. Sometimes it is difficult to determine whether a scripture verse is referring to the rapture or the second coming. However, in studying end-times Bible prophecy, it is very important to differentiate between the two.

The rapture is when Jesus Christ returns to remove the church (all believers in Christ) from the earth. The rapture is described in [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:50-54](#). Believers who have died will have their bodies resurrected and, along with believers who are still living, will meet the Lord in the air. This will all occur in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. The second coming is when Jesus returns to defeat the Antichrist, destroy evil, and establish His millennial kingdom. The second coming is described in [Revelation 19:11-16](#).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/difference-Rapture-Second-Coming.html>



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Turn to
1 Thessalonians 4
v. 13-18



But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.



παρουσία

Transliteration

parousia

Pronunciation

pä-rü-sē'-ä (Key)



Part of Speech

feminine noun

Root Word (Etymology)

From the present participle of
πάριμι (G3918)

Textus Receptus Occurrences — 24x in 4 unique form(s)

παρουσία — 6x

παρουσίαν — 3x

παρουσία — 9x

παρουσίας — 6x



☞ **Mat 24:3**

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, **G3952** and of the end of the world?

☞ **Mat 24:27**

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming **G3952** of the Son of man be.

☞ **Mat 24:37**

But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming **G3952** of the Son of man be.

☞ **Mat 24:39**

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming **G3952** of the Son of man be.



Here is my question:

If Paul is describing a different event other than the one Jesus spoke about—why is he using the exact same Greek word?

Parousia
pä-rü-sē'-ä



**16 For the Lord himself will
descend from heaven**

Matthew 24:30

**Then will appear in heaven
the sign of the Son of Man**



**with the voice of an archangel, and
with the sound of the trumpet of
God.**

Matthew 24:31

**And he will send out his angels
with a loud trumpet call,**



17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,

Matthew 24:31

and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



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Turn to

2 Thessalonians 2

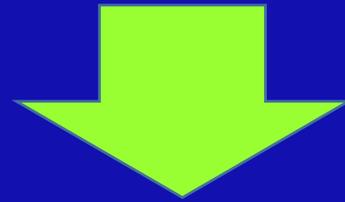


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Paul uses
Parousia
in
2 Thessalonians 2
as well



2 Thess 2:1



- Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,



**What would you say
“our being gathered
together to him” is?**

What is Paul describing?



ἔπισυναγωγή

Transliteration

episynagōgē

Pronunciation

e-pē-sū-nä-gō-gā' (Key)



Part of Speech

feminine noun

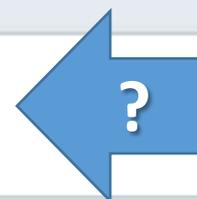
Root Word (Etymology)

From ἔπισυνάγω (G1996)

Textus Receptus Occurrences — 2x in 2 unique form(s)

ἔπισυναγωγήν — 1x

ἔπισυναγωγῆς — 1x



This is the noun form of the verb Jesus used when He said he was sending his angels to gather the elect (Mt. 24).



Matthew 24:31

- And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and **they will gather his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



**Notice just 7 verses later
what Paul describes as
he continues to describe
the Parousia.**



2 Thess 2:8

- And then **the lawless one will be revealed**, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing **by the appearance of his coming.**



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**Who is this lawless
one that Paul says
Jesus will kill?**



2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

- Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, **and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;** ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**



Paul is describing what Jesus described in the Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24:15

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),



2 Thessalonians 2:9

- The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,





- **The Beast (Revelation)**
- **Man of Sin (2 Thess 2)**
- **Son of Perdition (2 Thess 2)**
- **Lawless One (2 Thess 2)**
- **Antichrist (1 John 2:18)**
- **Desolator (Daniel 9:27)**
- **The Little Horn (Daniel 7 & 8)**

2 Thess 2:8

- And then **the lawless one will be revealed**, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing **by the appearance of his coming.**

brightness

?



ἐπιφάνεια

Transliteration

epiphaneia

Pronunciation

e-pē-fä'-nā-ä (Key)



Part of Speech

feminine noun

Root Word (Etymology)

From ἐπιφανής (G2016)

Textus Receptus Occurrences — 6x in 3 unique form(s)

ἐπιφανεία — 1x

ἐπιφανείας — 2x

ἐπιφάνειαν — 3x

1 Timothy 6:14

to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Timothy 1:10

and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

2 Timothy 4:1

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.



Titus 2:13

**waiting for our blessed hope,
the appearing of the glory of our
great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

**The blessed hope of every
Christian is NOT the rapture it
is the Return of Christ.**



**Peter & James both
use the word
Parousia when they
each write about
the return of Christ.**



James 5:7-8

- Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the **coming of the Lord**. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, **for the coming of the Lord** is at hand.



The NT is full of this language like “soon” and “at hand” when it comes to the return of Christ.

I think Peter provide instruction that is helpful when it comes to understand how it has been 2000 years and Jesus has still not returned.



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Look @

2 Peter 3:3ff



2 Peter 3:3-4

- knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “**Where is the promise of his coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”



**In v. 8, Peter answers how
it can be 2000 years since
Jesus said,
“Surely I am coming soon”
and it still be classified as
soon.**



2 Peter 3:8

- But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, **that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

So it has been 2 days since Jesus promised to come soon.



2 Peter 3:9

- The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count **slowness**, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.



2 Peter 3:10

- But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.



**When Jesus returns most
are going to shrink at His
appearance, wail, mourn,
beat their chests.**

Will you be the same way?



1 John 2:28

- And now, little children, abide in him, **so that when he appears** we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.



Revelation 1:7



- **This will certainly come to pass! Amen.)**

Revelations 1:10



- I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

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.”

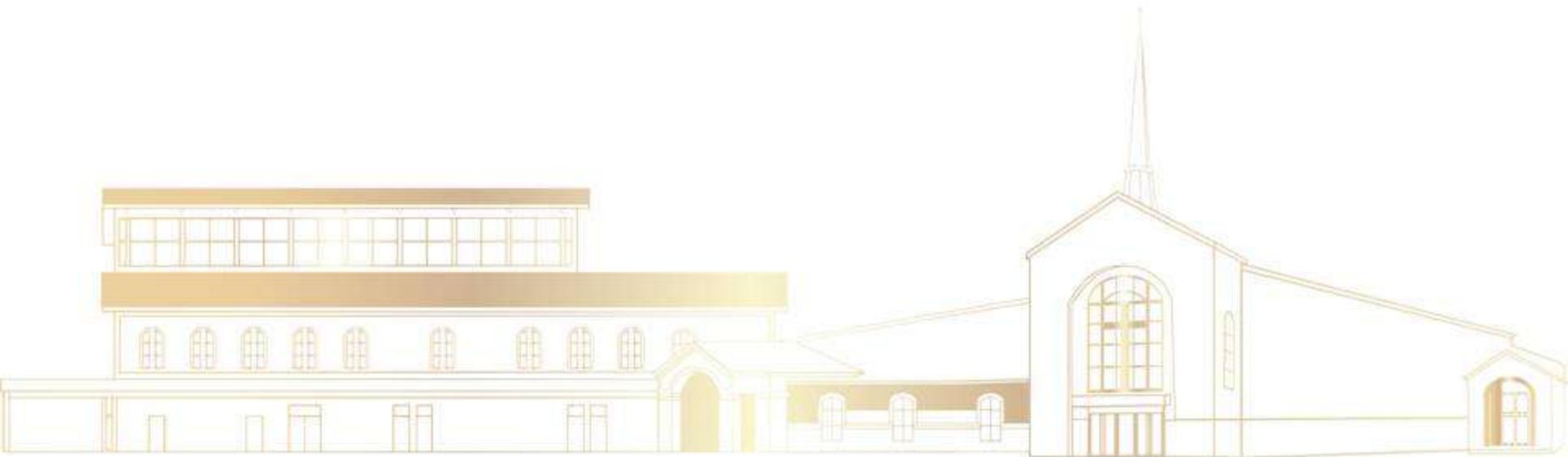
Revelation 1:12



- 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?**

