"I am the Alpha (Aleph) and the Omega (Tav), the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

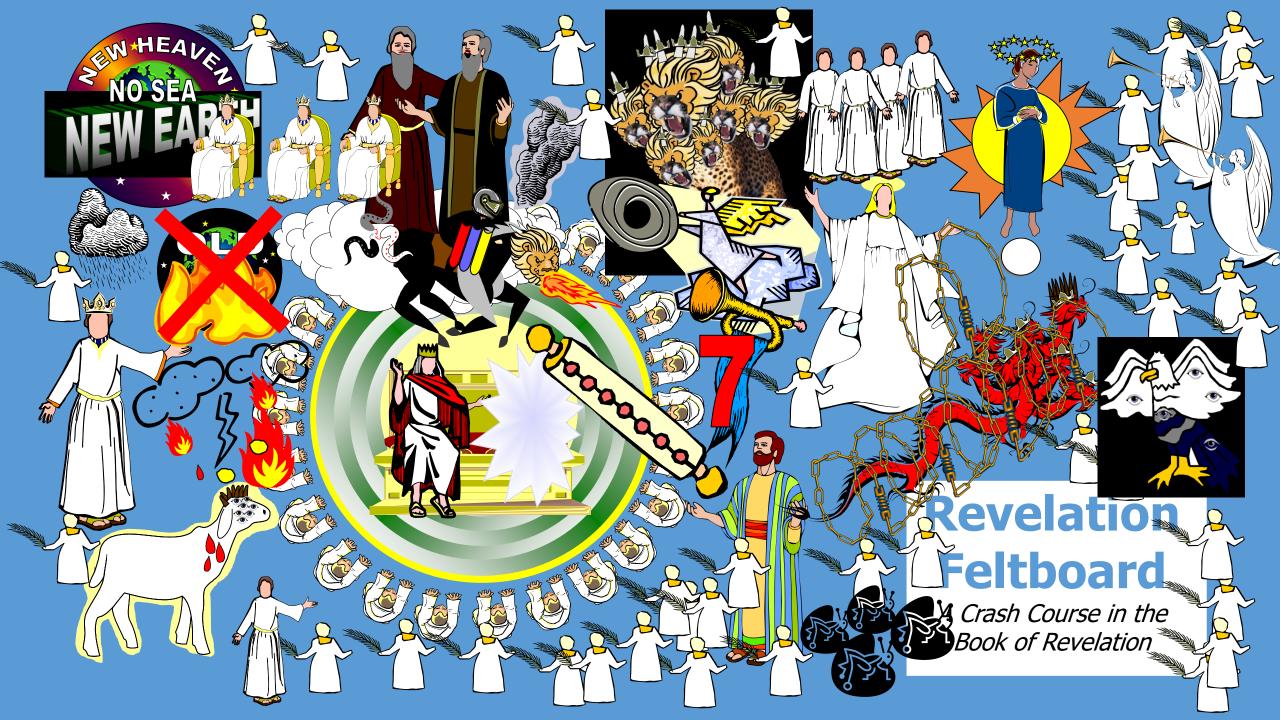
(Revelation 1:8)



Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.





The Revelation of Veshua SaMashiach (Jesus Christ)

Chapter 1 ナン



¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

⁴ John, to the seven churches which 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, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.
- ⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

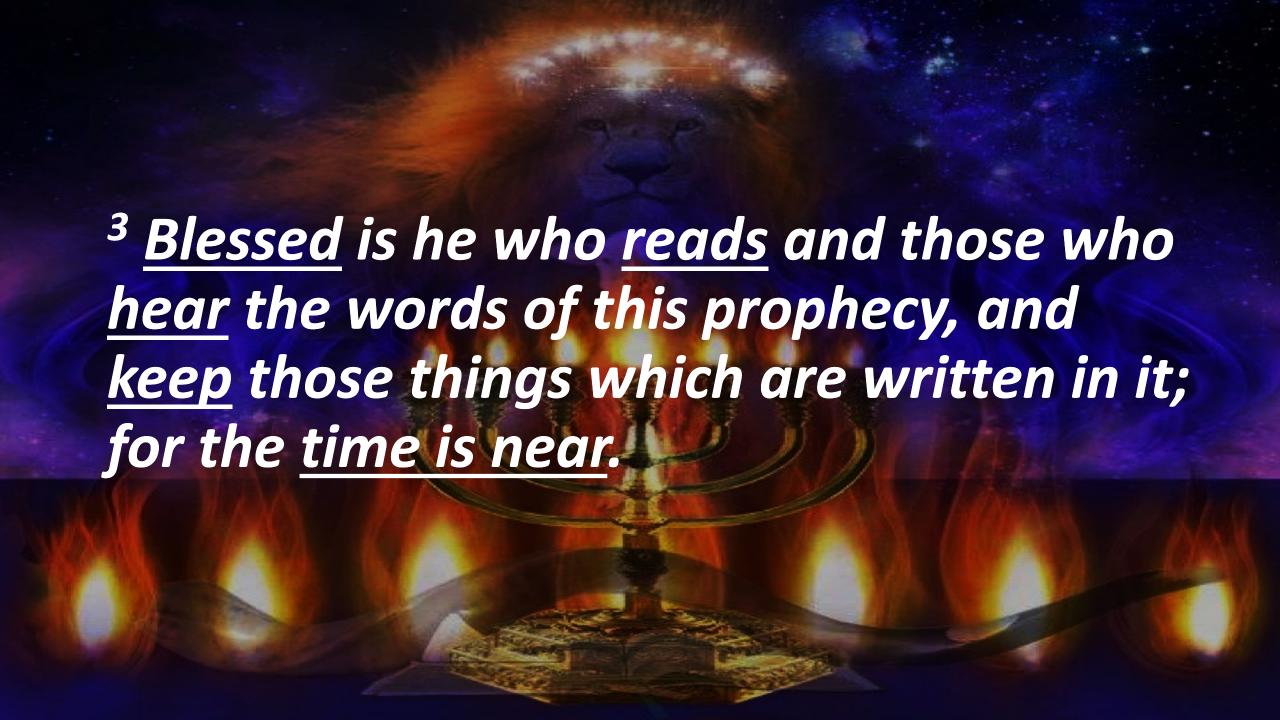
¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

HOLD QUESTIONS!

¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.



- Vision given to Jesus, not John! (John scribe)
- "Servants" = doulos, a bondslave.
- Revelation <u>not a sealed book</u> (V 22:10) To be understood. Daniel IS sealed (Daniel 12:4).
- "Shortly" = "en taxei" = rapid in execution,
 (tachometer) = "suddenly."
- "Signified" = rendered into signs (codes)



- "Read... Hear... Keep..." (v 3) Only book with special promise. Hear = understand, Keep = guard
- "near" = after resurrection time of second coming always "near"
- Our "near" and God's timing are always different!

⁴ John, to the seven churches which 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, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- **seven (7)** = completeness (*perfectly complete*). (Heptadic structure) God's Word is "perfectly complete." Revelation = perfect completion to entire Book.
- Also = complete picture of "church" through ages

It's all there.
100% Complete.



Watch for Titles of Jesus:

- 1. Faithful Witness (v. 5)
- 2. Firstborn from the Dead, "Prototokos" Firstborn, title of honor (See Romans 8:29, Colossians 1:15 and 18) also, He will not be the last! (Firstfruits)
- 3. Ruler over kings of the earth. (See Philippians 2:9-11, Psalm 2)
- 4. Him that loved us. Present tense = constant love

5. Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End (Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12). Alpha spelled out (completed) Omega not, just letter (yet to be).

THE ALEF-TAV! Key to understanding scriptures. God's Plan of Redemption = Yeshua!



- 6. Who is, who was and who is to come (not used elsewhere, only in Revelation) closest in Greek to YHVH (one not enough!)
- 7. **The Almighty**, here <u>equated with God the Father</u>, They are **ONE**. Zechariah 14:9 "And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.

 In that day it shall be—
 "The LORD is one,"
 And His name <u>one</u>." (echad alone, one)

• mini-gospel, highlights of Jesus' work for us.

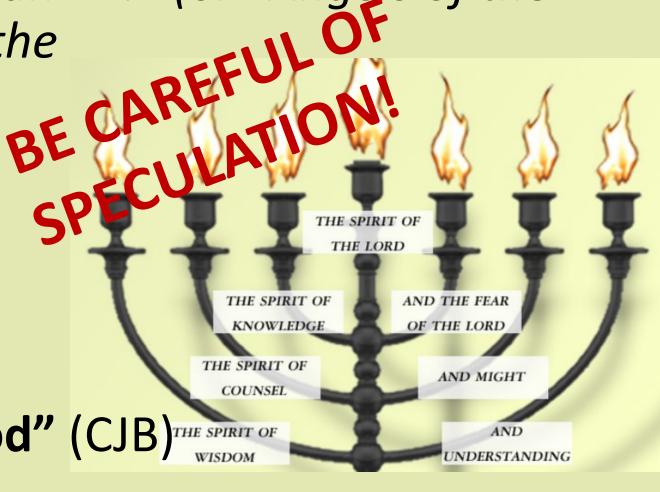
• "Seven spirits" See Isaiah 11:2 (or "Angels of the Presence" ever before the

Throne of God?

 OR merely ref to "perfectly complete" spirit of God?)

• Also in 3:1, 4:5, 5:6

• "sevenfold Spirit of God" (CJB) THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM



- "made us kings and priests..."
- Are we kings? NO!!! Only ONE King!
- Greek = basileus, either king or kingdom. KINGDOM of priests.
- "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:6)



⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- told **how** Jesus will return (Acts 1)
- EVERYONE will see Him, and some won't want to!
- Second Coming, not "catching away"
- "Pierced him" (Zechariah 12:10 contains alef tav!)

PROPHECY COMPLETED/CONFIRMED HERE: ¹⁰ And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

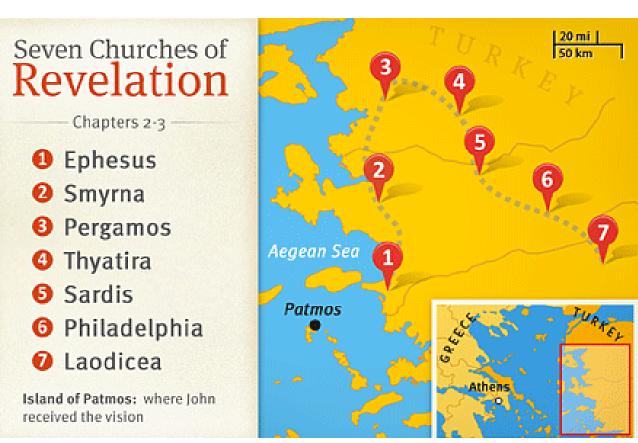
⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

- John imprisoned for preaching the gospel
- "in THE Spirit" = in fellowship with God directly, by power of His Spirit
- "on the Lord's Day" (Sunday, day of Resurrection, or Sabbath? Doesn't matter!)
- John = fellow brother to all members of Body of Messiah. Not written to unbelievers
- Companion (co-participant) tribulation (pressure, burden, persecution, trouble) and kingdom (realm) and patience (endurance, waiting)

- only one Voice qualifies with this title (Alpha Omega, Alev Tav)
- John gets orders to write what he sees and send to all churches mentioned
- ESP-TSP-L: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira,
 Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea (Turkey)
- Why these 7? 63 years after Pentecost (moed Shavuot) over 100 churches. Why not Rome, Jerusalem, Antioch, Colossae, Philipi, Galatia, etc.?

Hand selected by God for His purpose:

1. Missionary circuit



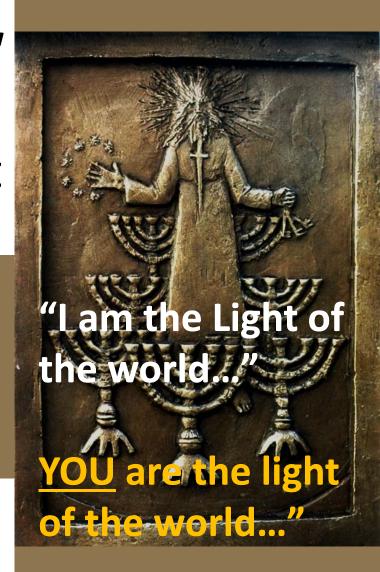
- 2. Actual churches/real needs and concerns
- 3. "hear... Churches" all 7 letters apply to all 7 churches (and to all "Church" to come)
- 4. 7 = **perfectly complete**, represents all believers

- 5. Personal: "he who has an ear" Applies to all of us
- 6. **Prophetic:** lay out entire history of "ekklesia." *In any other order, would not work.*
- 7. "...the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." (v. 19) Churches represent "things which are" (current age of grace, age of the Church). Rest of book about what happens AFTER this age.

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.



- Speaker in middle of 7 lampstands (lampstands = 7 churches, v. 20, Jesus' presence with the churches).
- Lampstands (Menorah menor<u>ot</u>) not candlesticks.
- Every individual and every local church is a bearer of God's light
- John 15, "I am the vine, you are the branches..." = menorah



- **Description of Glorified Jesus,** 7 elements, critical to letters to Churches (watch for them!):
- 1. Hair, head: wool, snow (Daniel 7:9, 7:13, 7:22) implies purity, glowing brightness
- 2. **Eyes:** flame of fire (Hebrews 1:13), fire implies judgment, all seeing
- 3. **Feet,** purified bronze/brass = judgment (Numbers 21:9, John 3:14-15)

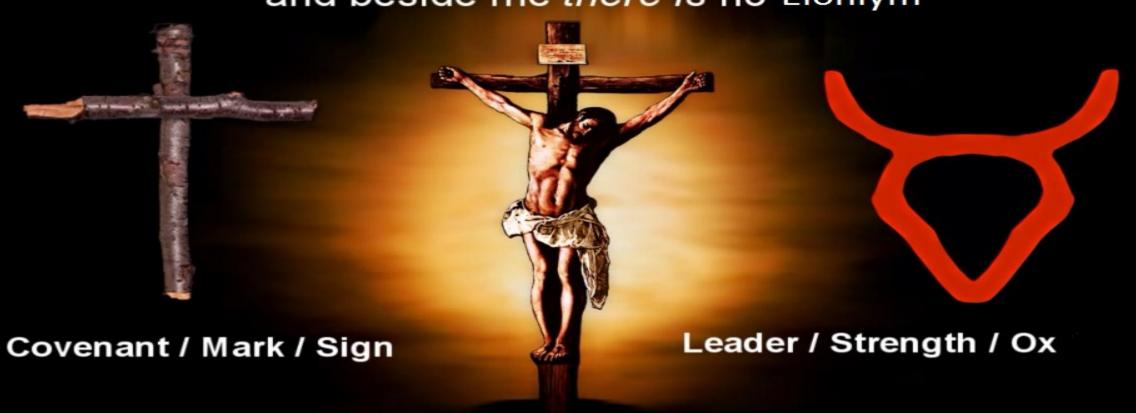
- 4. Voice as many waters. (See Ezekiel 1:24, 43:2, 3:12, Daniel 10:6, Psalm 33:6) authority
- 5. **Right hand** He held <u>seven stars</u> (angels of the churches, see V1:20) (right hand of favor)
- 6. **Mouth; two-edged sword** = <u>Word of God</u> (*Isaiah* 11:4, *Hebrews* 4:12, *Ephesians* 6:17, *Isaiah* 49:2, *John* 12:48, *Revelation* 2:16, 19:19-21)
- 7. **Countenance** of sun (Idiom of O.T., Malachi, seen by some disciples at transfiguration)

¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- John terrified, collapses! And he KNEW Jesus! (NO one can stand before Him!)
- "right hand" = hand of favor
- "<u>I am</u> He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen." = bold statement of identity
- "<u>I am</u> the first and the last..."
 An EQUALITY statement



Isaiah 44:6 ...I am the FIRST, and I am the LAST; and beside me there is no Elohiym



- "Do not be afraid..." 4 reasons here not to fear:
- 1. I Am the first and the last (God Himself, eternal)
- 2. I Am He that lives, and was dead (Savior, Firstfruits)
- 3. I Am alive for evermore (then, now and forever)
- 4. I hold the keys of death and Hades. (Authority and power. Proven by empty tomb.)

IAM.

"I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

What exactly is Hades?

(some translations = Hell)

But what is HELL???

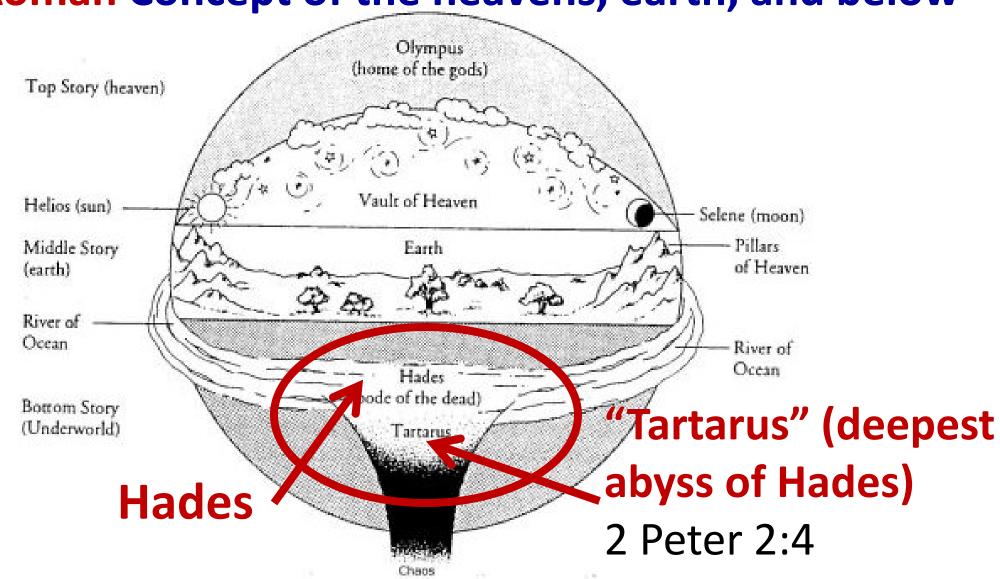
(will see this several times in Revelation)

What, Who or Where is Hades?

- "Hades" = Greek name for god of the underworld, god of dead. Came to mean place of the dead.
- Many English translations, translated "hell." We use loosely without knowing meaning.
- Hades equivalent to "Sheol" in OT(Hebrew). Sheol also place of the dead <u>ALL those who had died..at one time</u>. But then....

We might need to learn a bit about what is going on here...

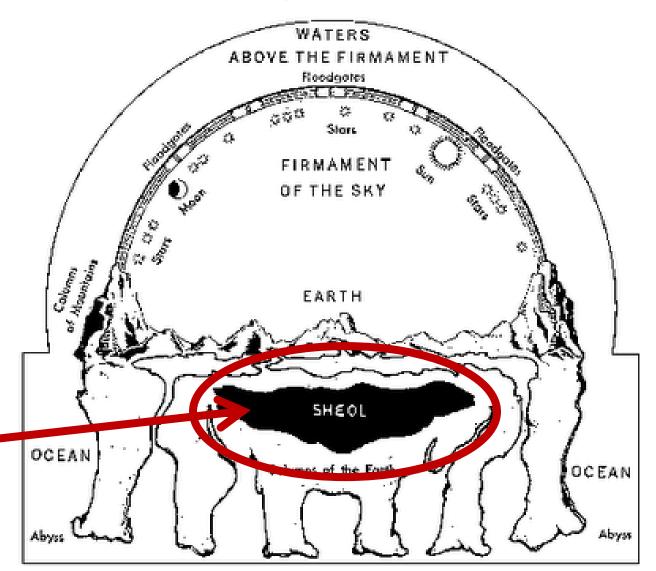
Greek-Roman Concept of the heavens, earth, and below



Ancient
Hebrew
Concept of
the heavens,
earth, and
below

Sheol

Heavens, God's Abode



- **Sheol** = place of the dead, apparently with a "two chamber" design.
 - 1) place of **comfort** (righteous, waiting for complete redemption, resurrection), (bosom of Abraham)
 - 2) place of **torment** (<u>un</u>righteous, waiting for final judgment/condemnation to eternal lake of fire).
- Jesus referenced "Great gulf" between them (rich man and Lazarus). "between us and you there is a great gulf fixed,..." (Luke 16:19-31) No passage between two areas.

Sheol (Hebrew), 18X O.T. Hades (Greek), 11X N.T.

Place of comfort, awaiting resurrection

Abraham

Jonah (?)

Jonah 2 Luke 11:23 ("sign of Jonah") Luke 16, 23

Body dies, goes into ground. Spirit goes...

"Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it."

(Ecclesiastes 12:7)

Lazarus Jesus Thief on cross (?)

Great Gulf

"Tartarus"
Fallen angels
Rich man
The wicked, lost

"Underworld"
Place of the
Dead

Abyss...bottomless pit **final judgment**

After Yeshua's Resurrection...

After His death, Jesus visited
Sheol/Hades

SHEOL / HADES

"Tartarus"
Fallen angels
Rich man
The wicked, lost

"Paradise"

Abraham, Jonah
Lazarus, Jesus, Thief on
cross, All OT saints
(but still awaiting
resurrection)

Sheol/Hades, released "captives." Escorted to Paradise after resurrection.

Lost remained in Sheol/Hades, awaiting final judgment.

Sheol/Hades

"Tartarus"

Fallen angels
Rich man
The wicked, lost
All the unsaved dead
from ancient days to
today

TODAY, Since His Resurrection

No more "captives" in Sheol/Hades, except unsaved lost awaiting resurrection and judgment at the Great White Throne. Ultimately end up in the Lake of Fire.

⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) (Ephesians 4:8-10)

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; (Isaiah 61:1)

Sheol/Hades

"Tartarus"
Fallen angels
Rich man
The wicked, lost,
from ancient to
current days
Place of the
UNSAVED DEAD

Great White
Throne Judgment

(Revelation 20)

(After Millennium) Death"

Lake of Fire

(final "hell")

Separation

Second

from

Elohim in

Lake of

Fire

To be destroyed, cast into Lake of Fire

(Revelation 20:14)

- Sheol/Hades still exists, but "saints" (names in the Book of Life, and Lamb's Book of Life) not there.
- In "Paradise" with Yeshua, also awaiting final resurrection, and "judgment seat of Christ." (rewards, not salvation)
- Only "inhabitants" of Sheol/Hades since Messiah's resurrection are <u>unsaved</u>.
- Sheol/Hades will be cast into Lake of Fire ultimately the final "hell"
- Believers <u>not subject</u> to Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20)

Lake of Fire...ultimate final and eternal destination of the lost = true "hell."

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:20)

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (20:10)

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (20:14)

And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (20:15)

NT references a place translated as "hell"...

- Geenna, gehinnom, gehinnam valley of (the son of)
 Hinnom; gehenna (or Ge-Hinnom), a valley of Jerusalem,
 used as name for place (or state) of everlasting
 punishment. Always translated as "hell" in English.
- Site where followers of Ba'al, other Caananite gods (Molech, etc.) <u>sacrificed their children</u> by fire. Later cursed.
- **NOT Sheol.** Sheol the "holding" place of dead. Gehenna is a final destination of the wicked, so it is **equivalent to** the lake of fire in Revelation.

Appropriate Gehenna ("hell") = lake of fire in Revelation

Jesus' time: place used as "dump" of the city. All refuse and waste ended up here, including corpses of the poor who could not afford burial. Burning waste 24 hours a day, a place of horror and stench, and eternal fire.

Earth's picture of ultimate hell - lake of fire.

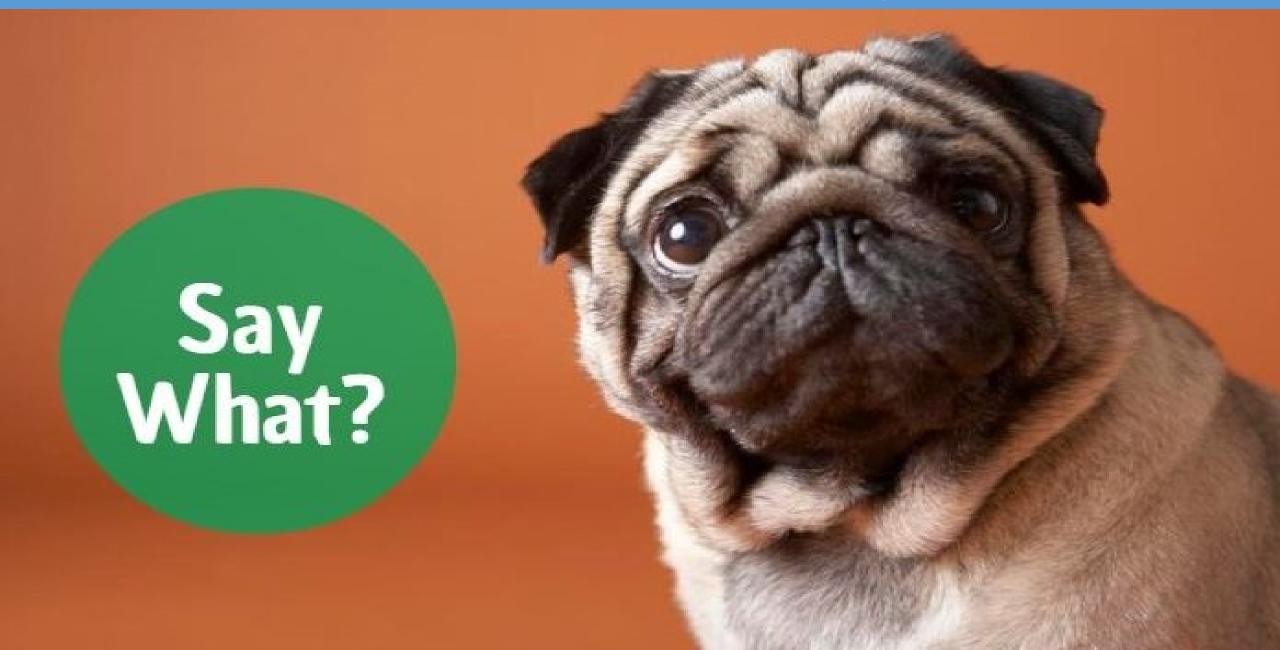


"Write the things..." V. 19 = Outline of entire book:

Section	Chapter	Content
1	1	"which you have seen" (glorified Jesus)
2	2-3	"the things which are" (the 7 churches, representing entire church age)
3	4-22	"the things which will take place after this" (meta tauta) [Tribulation, Armageddon, Millennial Kingdom, Final Judgment, Eternal State]

²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which 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 which you saw are the seven churches.

- Word interpreting itself. Stars = "angels" of churches, lampstands = churches
- "Right hand" = symbol of favor
- "Angel" = literally *messenger*. May be human (pastors, "shepherds" of the flocks) <u>or</u> heavenly messengers assigned to these churches for protection and oversight.



Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka



May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.