

A Peek Between the Covers of Revelation

Part 2

The Message to the Church

Recap:

- The book is about Jesus. That means it's about grace.
- There's a war on. Sin began with the angel closest to God. Satan believes that he should be worshiped. He slanders God in order to win our worship.
- The only way to sterilize the universe from sin is to allow Satan an opportunity to prove his case. At the end of that demonstration, every being will be convicted of the righteousness of God. Then the wicked can be destroyed, and the righteous will love God with no possibility that they will ever rebel.

The Scene:

- Rev 1:10 – John is “in the Spirit.” He hears a **VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET**.
- Exod 19:16 – This voice belongs to **GOD**.
- Exod 34:28 – This voice announced the delivery of the **COVENANT**.
- The covenant is the way God lays out His **ORDERLY** way of dealing with fallen mankind.
- Exod 25:8, Heb 9:1 – The center of the covenant is the **SANCTUARY**.
- Rev 1:12-13 – John sees someone in the **SANCTUARY**.
- Rev 1:13-15, Dan 7:13-14 – The person in the sanctuary is **JESUS**.
- Rev 1:13, 2:5 – Jesus is **TENDING THE LAMPSTANDS**. This means that He is a **PRIEST**.
- If Jesus is a priest, giving a message to the churches, this means that **THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL ARE ONE AND THE SAME ENTITY**.

Seven Churches:

- Rev 1:11, 20 – The message is to be sent to **THE SEVEN CHURCHES**.
- Acts 13:13, 14; 14:6; 14:25 – There were **MORE THAN** seven churches in Asia.
- The number “Seven” is **SYMBOLIC**.

The Message:

- If Jesus is God, speaking with a voice like a trumpet, this means that the message is related to the **COVENANT**.

Divine Covenant		Contract
God identifies Himself	Preamble	Parties identify themselves
God presents <i>bona fides</i>	Prolog	Parties present <i>bona fides</i>
God declares the terms	Stipulations	Parties agree to terms
Benefits and penalties listed	Blessing/Cursing	Benefits and penalties listed
Witnesses called	Witnesses	Witnesses sign

- Rev 2:1; 1:13, 20 – Covenant element: **PREAMBLE**.
- Rev 2:1 – Covenant element: **PROLOG**.
- Rev 2:5 – Covenant element: **STIPULATIONS**.
- Rev 2:5, 7 – Covenant element: **BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS**.
- Rev 2:7, Deut 6:4-5 – Covenant element: **WITNESSES**.

Exercise: Identify the covenant elements in each of the seven churches. In particular, identify Jesus' statement of authority in each, and the source of that statement in chapter 1.