

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 1:17-20

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Revelation 1:17-20.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1:17 When I saw Him,  
I fell at His feet like a dead man.  
And He placed His right hand on me, saying,  
    "Do not be afraid;  
    I am the first and the last,  
1:18 and the living One;  
    and I was dead,  
    and behold,  
    I am alive forevermore,  
    and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

1:19 "Therefore write  
    the things  
        which you have seen,  
    and the things  
        which are,  
    and the things  
        which will take place  
        after these things.

1:20 "As for 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 are the seven churches.

1. Verse 17 starts with "When I saw Him". What verse(s) prior to verse 17 indicate what John is seeing? List the verse where John "sees" and write out any connections you find between these verses. (Hint: Review the verses you found with the verb "to see" up through verse 20 to see the connections.)

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2. Who is the “him” referenced in “When I saw Him?” Write down the evidence found in verses 1-16 that help to determine the antecedent (Antecedent = what the pronoun “him” refers to)? (Hint: This will need to be traced back to evidence found in prior verses. Old Testament references can be included.)
  
3. How does John describe his response to seeing who spoke? What does this indicate? Look for other references in Scripture that are like this account? (hint: look in the Old Testament book of Daniel, Isaiah 6, or other NT references as well like Matthew 17, etc.)
  
4. What is the purpose of what is said by the one John sees? (end of verse 17 and verse 18)
  
5. In verse 18, write out the contrasts between life and death and list them out in the passage (hint: temporary vs eternal, etc.). What is being highlighted and how does this contribute to the purpose found in question 4?
  
6. If you have the tools, look at the two uses in verse 18 of the words, “living One” and “alive”. Examine the Strong’s numbers and/or the Greek word. Look for other references in the Bible that use the same words to describe God. List a few other references you find and describe what you find and any significance this might have to being used in this verse. (tools: Strong’s Concordance, The Literal Word App, blueletterbible.org)

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❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 1:17-20 again.

7. Verse 19 transitions with a coordinating conjunction, “Therefore”. How does “therefore” relate to the prior verses?
  
8. Write out what the two commands (imperatives) that are found in verses 17-20. (Hint: Commands (imperatives) are usually given with an implied subject, i.e. pray without ceasing)
  
9. How many times is the word “things” found in verse 19? What is “things” referring to? Is it always the same? Look to verse 11 for help in answering this question. In addition, can the “things” be summarized into a single topic, topic with sub-topics, or are there multiple? (Hint: Pastor Bret explained some of this in his intro message to the book of Revelation)
  
10. The word “which” usually begins a clause that helps explain the word in front of it. Write the number of times “which” is used in verse 14 and what each “which” explains; this will help identify the “things” in question 10.
  
11. How does the end of verse 17 through verse 18 help John accomplish the two commands found in these verses? Has one of these commands already been given in verses 1-16? If so, where, and why would it be repeated here?

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12. How should the end of verse 17 through verse 18 help us today with understanding and using the book of Revelation?

❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 1:17-20 again.

13. Verse 20 begins with the phrase “As for”. How would this connect to the prior verses? See the diagram for help. (Hint: which verse is it tied to and how? Is there a connecting word, coordinating conjunction, or some conjunction that shows a dependent nature, or is this an independent clause that can stand alone as its own sentence?)
14. While verse 20 flows with verses 17-20, these are an explanation of prior verses, mainly 12-16. Identify where these images are in the previous verses and write out thoughts on why these are being explained here in relation to some of the other images found in verses 12-16.
15. What do the lampstands and stars represent according to the passage? Where in the text does this clarification become helpful to understand the book? (Hint: look to the following chapters)

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16. What are possible meanings for the word, angel? Looking in a concordance or [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) will help get possible meanings, the Literal Word gives a good overview of all possible meanings.
17. From the context of Revelation 1 and the following chapters regarding the stars and lampstands, (Ch 2-3; which are the letters to the seven churches), write out what you see angels to mean. Try not to be influenced by what you might have heard or seen (presuppositions) but let the Word of God inform your understanding (scripture explains scripture). Try to find what would help explain a specific meaning. (i.e. What does trunk mean? It depends on the surrounding context – car, tree, clothes, elephant).

In preparation for Sunday, pray that the Holy Spirit that helped guide John write the revelation of Jesus Christ to John, would also help us to clearly see and understand the verses for the same reasons of hope, warning, and encouragement for us today. Help us to lay aside both presupposition of things we know and also fear of studying or understanding and grasp what is promised to give us great blessing to receive and obey in Revelation.