

The Consummate Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation is a consummate unveiling of Jesus Christ. It reveals the operation of the glorious and administrative Christ in His execution of the eternal economy of the Triune God, in His application of God's organic salvation as the redeeming Lamb, and in His walking amidst the seven lampstands to build up an enlarged testimony of Jesus in local churches. When John first sees Christ, he sees Him in a way that is unique to the New Testament and ultimate in relation to the carrying out of God's economy. Christ is clothed with a garment reaching to the feet and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle. His head and hair are as white as white wool. His eyes are like a flame of fire. His feet are like shining bronze. His voice is like the sound of many waters. He has seven stars in His right hand. A sharp two-edged sword proceeds out of His mouth, and His face shines as the sun in its power. Such a Christ is revealed as the center of the economical administration, government, activity, and move of the mutually coexisting and coinhering Triune God. The economy of the Triune God is sourced in the One who was and who is and who is coming, the eternal Father. It is applied by the seven Spirits who are before the throne, the intensified Spirit in God's economical operation in time. And it is accomplished by the Son as the redeeming Lamb with seven eyes.

As the Lamb of God, Christ was slain on the cross, shedding His blood to release us from our sins and to purchase us for God in order to make us a kingdom and priests to God. After conquering death and Hades in His resurrection, He ascended to heaven as the Lamb. As the victorious Lion-Lamb, He is uniquely worthy to unveil and accomplish the mystery of God's New Testament economy. In His heavenly ministry the Lamb carries out God's universal administration by means of His seven eyes, the seven Spirits of God, who are before His throne and who have been sent forth into all the earth. In His administration He carries out God's judgment upon the universe and the churches and transfuses all that He is into the believers in order to produce them as overcomers, His organic duplication. These overcomers will be admitted to the marriage dinner of the Lamb and be qualified to participate in the defeat of Christ's opposers on earth. Following His glorious victory, the Lamb will reign on the earth with His overcomers as His co-kings for a thousand years and will also be the centrality and universality of the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth, which will be an enlarged corporate lampstand shining out the glory of God.

The sign of the lampstand is prominent in the book of Revelation, signifying both the Triune God and the churches as the enlargement of the Triune God. The pure gold substance of the lampstand signifies God the Father in His divine nature. The form of the lampstand signifies Christ the Son as the embodiment of God the Father. The seven lamps of the lampstand signify God the Spirit as the seven Spirits of God for the expression of the Father in the Son. The seven golden lampstands in Revelation represent the highest peak of the divine revelation, the reproduction and enlargement of Christ in the churches through the receiving of His divine life and the partaking of His divine nature. The lampstands also point to the expressive living of the life of a God-man, and they speak of Christ's heavenly ministry to shepherd the churches according to God.

The seven golden lampstands are identified as local churches in Revelation, which does not deal with the one universal church but with local churches in many cities. It is easy to see the universal church, but it is difficult to see the local churches. The revelation of the local churches is the Lord's ultimate unveiling concerning the church. In order to fully know the church, we must see the local churches as unveiled here. The local churches with Christ as their center are the focus of the divine administration for the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose.

In order to receive the consummating revelations in the book of Revelation concerning Christ, the Triune God, the Lamb, the lampstands, and the local churches, we need to receive revelation from the Triune God in our redeemed and regenerated human spirit. It is not enough to know the words of Revelation without hearing the speaking of the Spirit. The revelation in the book of Revelation can be fully received only in the regenerated human spirit of separated believers in local churches. Seeing the essence of the book of Revelation—the Lord Jesus as the Word of God, the embodiment of the Triune God in the redeeming Lamb, and the local churches as the testimony of Jesus, the golden lampstands consummating in the New Jerusalem—depends on the Triune God shining into our regenerated human spirit as we separate ourselves, both positionally and dispositionally, from the degradation in the world and in the church by living in and for the manifestation of the testimony of Jesus in local churches. **AC**

by the Editors