

Greetings, today our manna is from Deut. 4; Psalm 86 & 87; Isaiah 32; Revelation 2.

May 31 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

Deuteronomy 4

Moses Commands Obedience

Obedience; obedience; obedience. Sometimes it just seems that that word should be constantly repeated in our minds. ‘If you love Me you will keep My commandments.’ Or ‘Obedience is better than sacrifice.’

There are so many Scriptures that expound obedience! It was the lack of obedience that prevented Moses from entering the promise land. It was the lack of obedience when the people broke their covenant with YHWH with the sin of the golden calf. It was the lack of obedience when the 10 spies gave an evil report and the people didn’t enter the promise land. We could go on and on. **Moses stresses the importance of obedience.** Guard His words; stay in faith! Having a healthy fear and reverence of YHWH is a good thing; as when He spoke to the people from Mount Sinai.

Deu 4:1 “And now, O Yisra’ël, listen to the laws and the right-rulings which I am teaching you to do, so that you live, and shall go in and possess the land which **יהוה** Elohim of your fathers is giving you.

Deu 4:2 “Do not add to the Word which I command you, and do not take away from it,^a so as to guard the commands of **יהוה** your Elohim which I am commanding you.

Footnote: ^aSee also [Deu 12:32](#), [Pro 30:6](#), [Rev 22:18-19](#).

Deu 4:3 “Your eyes have seen what **יהוה** did at Ba’al Pe’or, for **יהוה** your Elohim has destroyed from your midst all the men who followed Ba’al Pe’or.

Deu 4:4 “But you who are clinging to **יהוה** your Elohim are alive today, every one of you.

Deu 4:6 “**And you shall guard and do them**, for this is your wisdom and your understanding before the eyes of the peoples who hear all these laws, and they shall say, ‘**Only a wise and understanding people is this great nation!**’

Deu 4:7 “**For what great nation is there which has Elohim so near to it, as יהוה our Elohim is to us, whenever we call on Him?**

Deu 4:8 “And what great nation is there that has such laws and righteous right-rulings like all this Torah which I set before you this day?

Deu 4:9 “**Only, guard yourself, and guard your life diligently, lest you forget the Words** your eyes have seen, and lest they turn aside from your heart all the days

of your life. And you shall make them known to your children and your grandchildren.

Deu 4:10 “The day when you stood before **יהוה** your Elohim in Hōrēḇ, **יהוה** said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me and I make them hear My Words, so that they learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth and teach *them* to their children.’

Deu 4:11 “And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the heart of the heavens – darkness, cloud, and thick darkness.

Deu 4:12 “And **יהוה** spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard a voice of words, but saw no form, you only heard a voice.

Deu 4:13 “And He made known to you His covenant which He commanded you to do, the Ten Words, and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

Deu 4:14 “And **יהוה** commanded me at that time to teach you laws and right-rulings, for you to do them in the land which you pass over to possess.

Idolatry Forbidden

Deu 4:15 “Therefore, diligently guard yourselves, for you saw no form when **יהוה** spoke to you at Hōrēḇ out of the midst of the fire,

Deu 4:16 lest you should do corruptly and shall make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure – the likeness of male or female,

Deu 4:17 the likeness of any beast that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the heavens,

Deu 4:18 the likeness of any *creature* that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth;

Deu 4:19 and lest you lift up your eyes to the heavens, and shall see the sun, and the moon, and the stars – all the host of the heavens – and you be drawn away into bowing down to them and serving them, which **יהוה** your Elohim has allotted to all the peoples under all the heavens.

Deu 4:20 “But **יהוה** has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Mitsrayim, to be His people, an inheritance, as it is today.

Deu 4:21 “And **יהוה** was enraged with me because of your words, and swore that I would not pass over the Yardēn, and that I would not enter the good land which **יהוה** your Elohim is giving you as an inheritance.

Deu 4:22 “For I am to die in this land, I am not passing over the Yardēn, but you are passing over, and shall possess that good land.

Deu 4:23 “Guard yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of **יהוה** your Elohim which He made with you, and shall make for yourselves a carved image in any form, as **יהוה** your Elohim has commanded you.

Deu 4:24 “For **יהוה** your Elohim is a consuming fire, a jealous Ėl.

Deu 4:25 “When you bring forth children and grandchildren, and shall grow old in the land, and shall do corruptly and make a carved image in the form of whatever, and shall

do what is evil in the eyes of **יהוה** your Elohim to provoke Him,

Deu 4:26 “I shall call the heavens and earth to witness against you on that day, that you soon completely perish from the land which you pass over the Yardēn to possess – you do not prolong your days in it but are completely destroyed.

Heaven and Earth stood as witnesses that Moses imparted all that YHWH had commanded him to the next generation. Most importantly, he forbids them from making and worshipping any idol. He goes into details of various things not to make nor bow down to. We know idol worship was the epic sin of the previous generation by making the golden calf.

If they would not be obedient; YHWH would scatter them among the peoples. There, they would become imprisoned to serve the worldly system and the worldly idols of wood and stone. Sadly, this is where we are today. We are scattered among the peoples but praise Yah, we have sought Him and found Him because we searched for Him with all our heart. He has not forgotten His covenant! HalleluYah!

Deu 4:27 “And **יהוה** shall scatter you among the peoples, and you shall be left few in number among the nations where **יהוה** drives you.

Deu 4:28 “And there you shall serve mighty ones, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

Deu 4:29 “But from there you shall seek **יהוה** your Elohim, and shall find, when you search for Him with all your heart^b and with all your being. Footnote: ^b Jer 29:13.

Deu 4:30 “In your distress, when all these words shall come upon you in the latter days, then you shall return to **יהוה** your Elohim and shall obey His voice.

Deu 4:31 “**For **יהוה** your Elohim is a compassionate Ēl, He does not forsake you, nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.**

YHWH Alone Is Eloah

Deu 4:32 “For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that Elohim created man on the earth, and ask from one end of the heavens to the other end of the heavens, whether there has been a Word as great as this, or has been heard like it.

Deu 4:33 “Has a people heard the voice of Elohim speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live?

Deu 4:34 “Or has Elohim tried to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of a nation by trials, and by signs, and by wonders, and by battle, and by a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and by great fearsome deeds, according to all that **יהוה** your Elohim did for you in Mitsrayim before your eyes?

YHWH had demonstrated to the people when He rescued them out of Egypt; that He alone was the One True Elohim, through miracles, signs, wonders, battles, trials, and with His strong hand and outstretched arm.

Sometimes you don't know what you have until it is gone. The people were constantly reminded of the greatness of YHWH who led them out of Egypt. They were constantly reminded that there were no other gods greater than He. He had 'chosen' them and not other nations. He had taken them to be His people and they their Elohim. They had been given the privilege of being in His presence and hearing His voice without falling dead! They had literally been shown all these things.

Sadly, many of the first 'exodus' generation did forget; so now, Moses is expounding and reinforcing these truths in hope that this next generation would be different.

Deu 4:35 "You have been shown it, to know that יהוה Himself is Elohim; there is no one beside Him.

Deu 4:36 "From the heavens He let you hear His voice, to instruct you, and on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire.

Deu 4:37 "And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their seed after them, and brought you out of Mitsrayim with His Presence, with His great power,

Deu 4:38 to drive out from before you nations greater and stronger than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is today.

Deu 4:39 "And you shall know today, and shall recall to your heart that יהוה Himself is Elohim in the heavens above and on the earth beneath; there is none else.

Deu 4:40 **"And you shall guard His laws and His commands which I command you today,** so that it is well with you and with your children after you, and so that you prolong your days on the soil which יהוה your Elohim is giving you for all time."

Cities of Refuge

Deu 4:41 Then Mosheh separated three cities beyond the Yardēn, toward the rising of the sun,

Deu 4:42 for a man-slayer to flee there, he who unknowingly murdered his neighbour, without having hated him in time past, and might flee to one of these cities and live:

Deu 4:43 Betser in the wilderness in the level land for the Re'ubēnites, and Ramoth in Gil'ad for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Menashshites.

Moses is initiating YHWH's instructions by setting up the three cities of refuge beyond the Jordan for those that 'unintentionally' caused the death of someone else. There would be six cities in total. The other three cities were to be set up in the land of Canaan.

The three cities he set up were:

1. **Betser** in the wilderness in the level land for the Re'ubēnites, and
2. **Ramoth** in Gil'ad for the Gadites, and
3. **Golan** in Bashan for the Menashshites.

Introduction to the Law

Deu 4:44 And this is the Torah which Mosheh set before the children of Yisra'el.

Deu 4:45 These are the witnesses, and the laws, and the right-rulings which Mosheh spoke to the children of Yisra'el after they came out of Mitsrayim,

Deu 4:46 beyond the Yardēn, in the valley opposite Bēyth Pe'or, in the land of Siḥon sovereign of the Amorites, who dwelt at Ḥeshbon, whom Mosheh and the children of Yisra'el had stricken after they came out of Mitsrayim.

Deu 4:47 And they took possession of his land and the land of Oḡ sovereign of Bashan, two sovereigns of the Amorites, who were beyond the Yardēn, toward the rising of the sun,

Deu 4:48 from Aro'ēr, which is on the bank of the wadi Arnon, even to Mount Siyon, which is Ḥermon,

Deu 4:49 and all the desert plain beyond the Yardēn as far as the Sea of the Araḇah, below the slopes of Pisgah.

[NOTE: See May 26th Devotional Highlights for the details about the cities of refuge.]

Moses now begins to record the introduction to the Torah of YHWH. The details will begin in Deuteronomy chapter 5. The introduction to the Law; sets the stage to record that:

- Moses sets the Torah before the children of Israel
- He will review testimony (the witness); the laws; and the right rulings after coming out of Egypt.
- He records the location where all of this was taking place; in the lands YHWH had given them by conquering King Sihon and King Og. [Deut. 4:46-49]

Psalm 86 & 87

It is amazing the number of times you will see the words **'lovingly committed'** to us in Scripture. He never wants us to forget His great love for us. It is like the words in the song, 'Have I told you lately, that I love you?'

He knows everything about us. He knows our prayers even before we compose them. There is not one cell in our body that He does not know. Call out to Him for He lives!

Great Is Your Steadfast Love

Psa 86:1 Incline Your ear, O יהוה, Answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Psa 86:2 Guard my being, for I am lovingly-committed; You are my Elohim; Save Your servant who is trusting in You!

Psa 86:3 Show favour to me, O יהוה, For I cry to You all day long.

Psa 86:4 Bring joy to the being of Your servant, For to You, O יהוה, I lift up my being.

Psa 86:5 For You, יהוה, are good, and ready to forgive, And great in loving-commitment to all those who call upon You.

Psa 86:6 Give ear, O יהוה, to my prayer; And listen to the voice of my pleadings.

Psa 86:7 In the day of my distress I call upon You, For You answer me.

Psa 86:7 In the day of my distress I call upon You, For You answer me.

Psa 86:8 **There is none like You among the mighty ones, O יהוה;** And like Your works there are none.

Psa 86:9 Let all nations You have made Come and bow themselves before You, O יהוה, And give esteem to Your Name.

Like a bride speaking to her beloved...

Psa 86:10 For You are great, and are doing wonders; You are Elohim, You alone.

Psa 86:11 Teach me Your way, O יהוה; Let me walk in Your truth; **Unite my heart to fear Your Name.**

Psa 86:12 I praise You, O יהוה my Elohim, with all my heart, And I esteem Your Name forever.

Psa 86:13 For Your loving-commitment is great toward me, And You have delivered my being From the depths of She'ol.

Psa 86:14 O Elohim, the proud have risen against me, And a band of dreaded men have sought my life, And have not set You before them.

Psa 86:15 **But You, O יהוה, Are a compassionate Ėl and showing favour, Patient and great in loving-commitment and truth.**

Psa 86:16 Turn to me, and show favour to me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your female servant.

Psa 86:17 Show me a sign for good, And let those hating me see it and be ashamed, For You, יהוה, have helped me and comforted me.

Psalm 87 - Psalm 87:6 speaks powerfully!

Psalm 87 - Mount Zion is used to symbolize many things. He loves the gates of Zion and glorious matters are spoken of her, the city of Elohim.

- Mt. Zion can refer to the New Jerusalem;
- the bride;
- the city of Elohim;
- His people that are born within her;
- He keeps records in the **register of the peoples**, knowing their births;
- He Himself does establish;
- His foundation is in the **set-apart mountains!**

This is His Dwelling Place. Mt. Zion is complete; singers, players, and all His fountains.

Psa 87:1 His foundation is In the set-apart mountains.

Psa 87:2 יהוה loves the gates of Tsiyon More than all the dwellings of Ya'aqob.

Psa 87:3 Esteemed *matters* are spoken of you, O city of Elohim: Selah.

Psa 87:4 “I mention Rahab and Babel to those who know Me; See, O Philistia and Tsor, with Kush, ‘This and that one was born there.’ ”

Psa 87:5 **And of Tsiyon it is said, “Each one was born in her; For the Most High Himself does establish her.”**

Psa 87:6 יהוה **does write, In the register of the peoples**, **“This one was born there.”** Selah.

Psa 87:7 And the singers and the players on instruments – All my fountains, are in you.

Isaiah 32

In the Book of Revelation, as in Isaiah, we see Yahusha plainly, in His powerful role as King of kings. We are well familiar with his roles as Prophet and as the Lamb of Elohim; and for those closest to Him, we know Him as our High Priest of the Melchizedek Order. We will soon know and see Him, as King of kings, and Master of masters! He defeats all His enemies; and His chosen and trustworthy ones are with Him. His right-rulings will be maintained for eternity.

A King Will Reign in Righteousness

Isa 32:1 See, a sovereign shall reign in righteousness, and rulers rule in right-ruling.

Rev 17:14 “They shall fight with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for He is **Master of masters** Deu 10:17 and Sovereign of sovereigns. And those with Him are called, and chosen, and trustworthy.”

Isa 32:2 And each one shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a shelter from the downpour, as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary

land.

Isa 4:4 When יהוה has washed away the filth of the daughters of Tsiyon, and rinsed away the blood of Yerushalayim from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning,

Isa 4:5 then יהוה shall create above every dwelling place of Mount Tsiyon, and above her gatherings, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night, for over all the esteem shall be a covering.

Isa 4:6 and a booth for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.

Isa 32:3 And the eyes of those who see are not dim, and the ears of those who hear listen.

Isa 32:4 And the heart of the rash understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers hurries to speak plainly.

Right ruling shall reign! Praise YHWH!

Isa 32:5 A fool is no longer called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be respectable;

Isa 5:20 **Woe** to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Isa 32:6 for a fool speaks folly, and his heart works wickedness: to practise filthiness, and to speak against יהוה that which misleads, to starve the being of the hungry, and to withhold the drink from the thirsty.

Isa 32:7 And the methods of the scoundrel are evil – he has devised wicked plans to destroy the poor with words of falsehood, even when the needy pleads for right-ruling.

Isa 32:8 But the generous one devises what is generous, and by generous deeds he rises up.

Complacent Women Warned of Disaster

Warning to Complacent Women – Women at ease and majoring on the minor things.
Rise up!

Isa 32:9 Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; *rise up* you complacent daughters, listen to my speech.

Isa 32:10 In little more than a year you shall be troubled, you complacent women; for the grape harvest shall fail, the ingathering shall not come.

We recall Isaiah's staunch diatribe in Isaiah 3:

Isa 3:18 In that day יהוה takes away the finery of the anklets, and the headbands, and the crescents,
 Isa 3:19 the pendants, the bracelets and the veils,
 Isa 3:20 the headdresses, and the leg ornaments, and the sashes, and the perfume bottles, and the amulets,
 Isa 3:21 the rings, and the nose jewels,
 Isa 3:22 the costly robes, and the cloaks, and the shawls, and the purses,
 Isa 3:23 the mirrors, and the fine linen, and the turbans, and the large veils.
 Isa 3:24 And it shall be: Instead of a sweet fragrance, a smell of decay; and instead of a belt, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a festal robe, a girding of sackcloth; and branding instead of loveliness.

When He returns, he will come swiftly. As in the days of Noah and Lot they will be eating, drinking, building, and marrying. People will think life will just go on forever without interruption or disturbance. Not so. Complacency is an enemy to YHWH's people. Just ask the five foolish virgins.

The Final Judgment

Mat 25:31 "And when the Son of Adam comes in His esteem, and all the set-apart messengers with Him, then He shall sit on the throne of His esteem.

Mat 25:32 "And all the nations shall be gathered before Him, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats.

Mat 25:33 "And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Mat 25:34 "Then the Sovereign shall say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the reign prepared for you from the foundation of the world –

Isa 32:11 Tremble, you women who are at ease; be troubled, you complacent ones; strip yourselves, make yourselves bare, and gird sackcloth on your waists.

Isa 32:12 Lament upon the breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruit-bearing vine.

Isa 32:13 Weeds and thornbushes come up over the ground of My people, indeed, over all the houses of joy, the city of revelry;

Isa 32:14 for the palace is abandoned, the crowded city deserted. Hill and watchtower serve as caves forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks;

Isa 32:15 until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness shall become garden-land, and the garden-land be reckoned as a forest.

Things will change when He pours out His Spirit. The non-complacent will be blessed.

Isa 32:16 Then right-ruling shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the garden-land.

Isa 32:17 The work of righteousness shall be peace, and the service of righteousness be rest and safety forever.

Isa 32:18 And My people shall dwell in a home of peace, and in safe dwellings, and in

undisturbed resting places,

Isa 32:19 even when hail shall fall, felling the forest, and the city be brought low in humiliation.

Isa 32:20 Blessed are you who sow beside all waters, who send out the foot of the ox and the donkey.

Revelation 2

Before we begin **Revelation Chapters 2 & 3**, we need to define some terms: those terms are witness, lampstand, messenger, assembly ‘church’, light, and we need to discuss the symbology connected to the lampstands. Keep in mind, I am learning with you. I do not have this all figured out.

In Revelation 1, **the 7 lampstands were identified as the 7 assemblies**. John was given a current message for these assemblies that existed in his present-day reality. Their locations were relatively close together and were in Asia Minor, present day Turkey. [Just as a side note, I noticed if you start with Ephesus then go to Smyrna and Pergamum then downward, it forms a shepherd’s staff.] Also notice, the proximity of the isle of Patmos to this region.



Lampstands – are menorahs [7 lamps]. We see in Exodus:

Exo 25:31 “And you shall make a **lampstand** of clean gold – **the lampstand** is made of beaten work. Its base and its shaft, its cups, its ornamental knobs and blossoms are from it,

Exo 25:32 and **six branches shall come out of its sides**: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side; Exo 25:37 “And you shall **make seven lamps for it**, and they shall mount its lamps so that they give light in front of it.

Rev 1:20 “The secret of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are messengers of the seven assemblies, and **the seven lampstands which you saw are seven assemblies.**

Revelation 11 equates the two witnesses to two olive trees AND two lampstands. This could either be referring to two of the seven assemblies without ‘negative remarks;’ which we will see later are Smyrna & Philadelphia; or it may be two prophets such as Elijah & Moses, or there may be two witnesses AND two lampstands.

Rev 11:3 “**And I shall give unto my two witnesses,** and they shall prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clad in sackcloth.”

Rev 11:4 These are the **two olive trees** Eze 4:3 and **the two lampstands** that are standing before the Elohim of the earth.

Messenger Defined – G32 ἄγγελος *aggelos ang'-el-os* From ἀγγέλλω *aggellō* (probably derived from G71; compare G34; to *bring tidings*); **a messenger, especially an “angel”;** **by implication a pastor: - angel, messenger.**

As per this definition, these ‘stars’, messengers, could be heavenly messengers; or they could be His kingdom of priests. Within the context of the messages to the 7 assemblies; we have a **stronger clue** that these 7 messengers are ‘spiritual messengers’ such as those that stand before YHWH [Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven messengers who stand before Elohim...]. Why? Because of this repeated statement: “He who has an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the assemblies.

Malachi 2:7 defines messenger –

Mal 2:7 “For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and they seek the Torah from his mouth, **for he is the messenger** of יהוה of hosts.

Psalm 103:20 speaks of His people as messengers:

Psa 103:18 To those who guard His covenant, And to those who remember His orders to do them.

Psa 103:19 יהוה has established His throne in the heavens, And His reign shall rule over all.

Psa 103:20 Bless יהוה, **you His messengers,** Mighty in power, who do His Word, **Listening to the voice of His Word.**

Psa 103:21 Bless יהוה, all you His hosts, You His servants, who do His pleasure.

When we come into covenant with Yahusha HaMashiach, our High Priest of the Melchizedek Order, we become His kingdom of priests. If we use the definition for messenger in Malachi 2:7; then we are also messengers to the assemblies. His kingdom of priests, His overcomers, can be compared to the rib taken out of Adam to form Eve; thereby, **describing the bride within the greater body of the assembly**.

The point to keep in mind about ‘messengers’ is that there are various kinds of messengers: Angels; 7 Messengers before His throne; His kingdom of priests; Resurrected believers are ‘as messengers’ [Scriptures follow].

Mat 22:30 “For in the resurrection they do not marry, nor are they given in marriage, **but are as messengers of Elohim in heaven.**”

Mar 12:25 “For **when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as messengers in the heavens.**”

Mar 12:26 “And concerning the dead, that they rise – **have you not read in the book of Mosheh, at the bush, how Elohim spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the Elohim of Abraham, and the Elohim of Yitshaq, and the Elohim of Ya’aqob’?**” Exo 3:6.

Mar 12:27 “**He is not the Elohim of the dead, but Elohim of the living.**” You, then, go greatly astray.”

Acts 1:8 also points to His set-apart ones as His witnesses; His set-apart witnesses in the house of Israel [Ephraim] (10 tribes), Judah (2 tribes), including those grafted in; will one day be joined into one stick; **one body**.

Witnesses –

Act 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Set-apart Spirit has come upon you, **and you shall be My witnesses** in Yerushalayim, and in all Yehudah and Shomeron, and to the end of the earth.”

Act 1:9 And having said this, while they were looking on, He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

Isa 43:10 “**You are My witnesses**,” declares יהוה, “And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no Ėl formed, nor after Me there is none.”

Isa 43:12 “I, I have declared and saved, and made known, and there was no foreign mighty one among you. And **you are My witnesses,**” declares יהוה, “**that I am Ėl.**”

Act 5:31 “Him, a Prince^b and a Savior, Elohim has exalted **to His right hand**, Psa 110:1 to give repentance to Yisra’el and forgiveness of sins. Footnote: ^bSee Act 3:15.

Act 5:32 “And **we are His witnesses** to these matters, and so also is the Set-apart Spirit whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him.”^c Footnote: ^cSee also [1Jn 3:24](#).

Strong’s defines witnesses as: G3144 μάρτυς martus mar'-toos Of uncertain affinity; a *witness* (literally [judicially] or figuratively [generally]); **by analogy a “martyr”**: - martyr, record, witness.

Again, [lampstand](#) and [witnesses](#) are connected:

Rev 11:3 “**And I shall give unto my two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clad in sackcloth.”

Rev 11:4 These are the **two olive trees** [Eze 4:3](#) and **the two lampstands** that are standing before the Elohim of the earth.

Assembly ‘Church’ – Assembly is not a ‘church’ building; the assembly is the ‘body’ of believers with Yahusha HaMashiach, our High Priest of the Melchizedek Order, as the head. In Him, we are living stones of many colors; in Him we are the temple housing the Holy Spirit, the Ruach HaKodesh.

Keep in mind however, that **John also went to the 7 physical assemblies** to [impart the Book of Revelation](#). The Book of Revelation had a message for John’s present day and for the future.

Col 1:18 And **He is the Head of the body, the assembly**, who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that He might become the One who is first in all.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is the Messiah.

1Co 12:13 **For indeed by one Spirit we were all immersed into one body**, whether Yehudim or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink into one Spirit. 1Co 12:14 For indeed **the body is not one member but many**.

1Co 12:27 And you are a body of Messiah, and members individually.

Lampstands bear His Light –

Php 2:15 in order that you be blameless and faultless, children of Elohim without blemish in the midst of a **crooked and perverse generation**, [Deu 32:5](#) among whom **you shine as lights in the world**,

Mat 5:15 “**Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand**, and it shines to all those in the house.

Mat 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, so that they see your good works and praise your Father **who is in the heavens.**"

From the context of these defined terms; we have attempted to let Scripture define Scripture:

Believers make up the assembly, the 'church.' We are **one body** with Yahusha (Jesus) as the head. His light, His Word, shines in us and through us to the world; therefore, we are the lampstands, the menorahs, with Him being the center light; in our midst.

Each message given to the 7 assemblies spoke to their present-day circumstance; and prophetically to the condition of all future generations:

1. **John's Present-day:** The 7 groupings of assemblies that served as a 'core sample' of the possible **victories and/or short comings** **of believers making up the assembly.** [the body]
2. **Prophetically:** The 7 strengths and/or weaknesses **in each believer** that make up the 'one body' or the 'One New Man', from that point forward.

Format of the messages to the **7 Messengers** of the Assemblies:

1. **Address of Message** – 'To and From' –

To: The Messengers

From: Yahusha HaMashiach – Each address shows Yahusha identified by the descriptions given in **Revelation 1**, without His Name being written out. These messages were addressed to the messengers of the 7 assemblies, which are either the kingdom of priests of Yahusha HaMashiach of the Melchizedek Priesthood of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation; **or** actual angelic messengers; and in John's day they could be addressing the leaders of each of the 7 assemblies.

I strongly consider the messengers to be His kingdom of priests; His bride. My reason being, is that the Scripture says... 'To the messenger **of the** assembly'. As mentioned before, the bride, is a rib of the assembly. A sub-group of set-apart believers.

Malachi 2:7 defines who the messengers are of YHWH.

Mal 2:7 "For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and they seek the Torah from his mouth, for he is the messenger of **יהוה** of hosts.

The spirit of Elijah, worked through John the Immerser, to usher in the transference of the reigning priesthood back to the Melchizedek Priesthood from the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. Yahusha accomplished this; therefore, His Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. Those receiving His Spirit and coming into the new covenant with Him; now make up His 'kingdom of priests'; a 'kingdom of messengers' or witnesses.

This is my understanding, with the Melchizedek Priesthood reigning. However, like stated before, there could be two individual prophets AND His kingdom of priests [Smyrna & Philadelphia] as witnesses.

At the time Malachi was written, the reigning priesthood was the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood; a nation with a priest. John the Immerser was the true High Priest of the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood **functioning in the wilderness**. [NOTE: Keep in mind 'wilderness'. Will the bride be taken to the very wilderness where John the Immerser witnessed?]

Malachi 3:1 is speaking of John the Immerser:

Mal 3:1 "See, I am sending My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me. Then suddenly the Master you are seeking comes to His Hēḵal, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. See, He is coming," said יהוה of hosts.

Psalms 103:20 speaks of His people as messengers:

Psa 103:20 Bless יהוה, you His messengers, Mighty in power, who do His Word, Listening to the voice of His Word.

Let's recap the 1st aspect concerning the format of the letters since covering such a long narrative explanation:

1. Address of Message – 'To and From'
2. Positive/Strengths
3. Negative/Weaknesses [Note: Smyrna and Philadelphia are the only two without negative remarks]
4. Warning/Advice
5. Overcomers Reward [Note: Overcomers reward is stated after the 'Key Verse' for Ephesus; Smyrna; and Pergamos]
6. Key Verse – 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.' These messages are for anyone who has 'an ear.' So, some will have ears to hear; and some not.

We have now prepared ourselves, to look at the content of the messages and see the insights we will gain. Now we begin to look at the messages to the 7 assemblies [the 7 menorahs or candlesticks].

To the Assembly in Ephesus

Rev 2:1 “To the messenger of the assembly of Ephesus write, ‘He who is holding the seven stars in His right hand, who is walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands, says this:

Rev 2:2 “I know your works, and your labour, and your endurance, and that you are not able to bear evil ones, and have tried those who say they are emissaries and are not, and have found them false;

Rev 2:3 and you have been bearing up and have endurance, and have laboured for My Name’s sake and have not become weary.

Rev 2:4 “But I hold this against you, that you have left your first love.

Rev 2:5 “So remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works, or else I shall come to you speedily and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Rev 2:6 “Yet this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaites, which I also hate.

Rev 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who **overcomes^a** I shall give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is **in the midst of the paradise^b of Elohim.**” ^c[Gen 2:9](#), [Gen 3:22](#), [Gen 3:24](#) Footnotes: ^aThis word (and its noun) is used 17 times in the Book of Revelation. The name Yisra’el means to *overcome with Ėl*. ^bLit. garden. ^cSee [Rev 22:2](#) and [Rev 22:14](#).

To: The messenger of the assembly of Ephesus [Rev. 2:1-7]

From: He who is holding the seven stars in His right hand, who is walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands

Positive/Strengths: [Rev 2:2](#) “I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance, and that you are not able to bear evil ones, and have tried those who say they are emissaries and are not, and have found them false; [Rev 2:3](#) and you have been bearing up and have endurance, and have labored for My Name’s sake and have not become weary. -----[Rev 2:6](#) “Yet this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaites, which I also hate.

Negative/Weaknesses: [Rev 2:4](#) “But I hold this against you, that you have left your first love.

Warning/Advice: Rev 2:5 So remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works, or else I shall come to you speedily and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Key Verse: Rev 2:7a “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.

Overcomer Rewards: Rev 2:7b To him who overcomes^a I shall give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is **in the midst of the paradise^b of Elohim.**” ^c [Gen 2:9](#), [Gen 3:22](#), [Gen 3:24](#)

Footnotes: ^aThis word (and its noun) is used 17 times in the Book of Revelation. **The name Yisra’ēl means to overcome with Ĕl.** ^bLit.

To the Assembly in Smyrna

Rev 2:8 “And to the messenger of the assembly in Smurna write, ‘This says the **First and the Last**, [Isa 44:6](#), [Isa 48:12](#) who became dead, and came to life:

Rev 2:9 “I know your works, and pressure, and poverty – yet you are rich – and the blasphemy of those who say they are Yehudim and are not, but are a congregation of Satan.

Rev 2:10 “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. See, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, in order to try you, and you shall have pressure ten days. Be trustworthy until death, and I shall give you the crown of life.

Rev 2:11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. He who overcomes shall by no means be harmed by the **second death.**” ^d **Footnote:** ^dSee [Rev 20:6](#).

To: The messenger of the assembly of Smyrna [Rev. 2:8-11]

From: ‘This says the First and the Last, [Isa 44:6](#), [Isa 48:12](#) who became dead, and came to life:

Positive/Strengths: Rev 2:9a “I know your works, and pressure, and poverty – yet you are rich...

Negative/Weaknesses: None mentioned

Warning/Advice: Rev 2:9b ...and the blasphemy of those who say they are Yehudim and are not but are a congregation of Satan. Rev 2:10 “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. See, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, in order to try you, and you shall have pressure ten days. Be trustworthy until death, and I shall give you the crown of life.

Key Verse: Rev 2:11a “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.

Overcomer Rewards: Rev 2:11b He who overcomes shall by no means be harmed by the second death.” ’d Footnote: dSee Rev_20:6.

To the Assembly in Pergamum

Rev 2:12 “And to the messenger of the assembly in Pergamos write, ‘He who has the sharp two-edged sword, says this:

Rev 2:13 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan is. And you hold fast to My Name, and did not deny the belief in Me, even in the days in which Antipas was My trustworthy witness, who was killed near you, where Satan dwells.

Rev 2:14 “But I hold a few *matters* against you, because you have there those who adhere to the teaching of Bil’am, who taught Balaq to put a stumbling-block before the children of Yisra’el, to eat *food* offered to idols, and to commit whoring.

Rev 2:15 “So you also have those who adhere to the teaching of the Nikolaites, which *teaching* I hate.

Rev 2:16 “Repent, or else I shall come to you speedily and fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Rev 2:17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes I shall give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I shall give him a white stone, and on the stone a renewed Name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ’

To: The messenger of the assembly of Pergamum [Rev. 2:12-17]

From: He who has the sharp two-edged sword

Positive/Strengths: Rev 2:13 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan is. And you hold fast to My Name, and did not deny the belief in Me, even in the days in which Antipas was My trustworthy witness, who was killed near you, where Satan dwells.

Negative/Weaknesses: Rev 2:14 “But I hold a few matters against you, because you have there those who adhere to the teaching of Bil’am, who taught Balaq to put a stumbling-block before the children of Yisra’ël, to eat food offered to idols, and to commit whoring. Rev 2:15 “So you also have those who adhere to the teaching of the Nikolaites, which teaching I hate.

[Excerpt on Nicolaitans: A sect or party of evil influence in early Christianity, especially in the 7 churches of Asia. **Their doctrine was similar to that of Balaam, "who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication" (Revelation 2:14, 15).** Their practices were strongly condemned by John, who praised the church in Ephesus for "hating their works" (Revelation 2:6), and blamed the church in Pergamum for accepting in some measure their teaching (Revelation 2:15). Except that reference is probably made to their influence in the church at Thyatira also, where their leader was "the woman Jezebel, who calleth herself a prophetess" (Revelation 2:20; compare Revelation 2:14), no further direct information regarding them is given in Scripture.

Link: <https://biblehub.com/topical/n/nicolaitans.htm>

Warning/Advice: Rev 2:16 “Repent, or else I shall come to you speedily and fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Key Verse: Rev 2:17a “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.

Overcomer Rewards: Rev 2:17b To him who overcomes I shall give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I shall give him a white stone, and on the stone a renewed Name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ’

To the Assembly in Thyatira

Rev 2:18 “And to the messenger of the assembly in Thyatira write, ‘This says the Son of Elohim, who has **eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like burnished brass:** [Dan 10:5-6](#).

Rev 2:19 “I know your works, and love, and service, and belief, and your endurance. And as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Rev 2:20 “But I hold against you that you allow that woman Izebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and lead My servants astray to commit whoring and to eat *food* offered to idols.

Rev 2:21 “And I gave her time to repent of her whoring, and she did not repent.

Rev 2:22 “See, I am throwing her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their works.

Rev 2:23 “And I shall slay her children with death. And all the assemblies shall know that I am the One searching the kidneys and hearts. And I shall give to each one of you according to your works.

Rev 2:24 “And to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not possess this teaching, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they call them, I am not putting on you another burden.

Rev 2:25 “But hold fast what you have until I come.

Rev 2:26 “And he who overcomes, and guards My works until the end, **to him I shall give authority over the nations, Psa 2:8.**

Rev 2:27 and he shall shepherd them **with a rod of iron, as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces, Psa 2:9** as I also have received from My Father.

Rev 2:28 “And I shall give him the morning star.

Rev 2:29 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.” ’

To: The messenger of the assembly of Thyatira [Rev. 2:18-29]

From: ‘This says the Son of Elohim, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like burnished brass: Dan_10:5-6.

Positive/Strengths: Rev 2:19 “I know your works, and love, and service, and belief, and your endurance. And as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Rev 2:24 “And to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not possess this teaching, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they call them, I am not putting on you another burden.

Negative/Weaknesses: Rev 2:20 “But I hold against you that you allow that woman Izebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and lead My servants astray to commit whoring and to eat food offered to idols. Rev 2:21 “And I gave her time to repent of her whoring, and she did not repent. Rev 2:22 “See, I am throwing her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their works. Rev 2:23 “And I shall slay her children with death. And all the assemblies shall know that I am the One searching the kidneys and hearts. And I shall give to each one of you according to your works.

[Excerpt Izebel (Jezebel): "that Jezebel of a woman alleging herself a prophetess." Some members of the church at Thyatira "under the sway of an influential woman refused to separate from the local guilds where moral interests, though not ostensibly defied, were often seriously compromised. Her lax principles or tendencies made for a connection with foreign and compromising associations which evidently exerted a dangerous influence upon some weaker Christians in the city." Her followers "prided themselves upon their enlightened liberalism (Revelation 2:24)."] Link: <https://biblehub.com/topical/j/jezebel.htm>

Warning/Advice: Rev 2:25 “But hold fast what you have until I come.

Overcomer Rewards: Rev 2:26 “And he who overcomes, and guards My works until the end, to him I shall give authority over the nations, [Psa 2:8](#). Rev 2:27 and he shall shepherd them with a rod of iron, as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces, [Psa 2:9](#) as I also have received from My Father.
Rev 2:28 “And I shall give him the morning star.

Key Verse: Rev 2:29 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.” ’

Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>