

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message Five

**The Revelation and Experience of the Golden Lampstands
and the Great Multitude as the Testimony of Jesus**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 1:1-2, 9-12, 20; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Thes. 5:4-5; Rev. 7:9-17; 21:22; John 16:33;
2 Cor. 12:9; Col. 3:3; Psa. 91:1; 17:8; Isa. 32:1-2; Psa. 23:1-6; Rev. 22:1

**I. The testimony of Jesus is the seven golden lampstands—golden (divine) in nature,
shining in darkness, and identical with one another—Rev. 1:1-2, 9-20:**

A. The lampstands are golden, signifying the divine nature; everything in the church as the testimony of Jesus must be in the divine nature—2 Pet. 1:4.

B. The present age is the “nighttime,” and in every avenue of human society there is nothing but darkness; however, every local church is a shining lampstand, illuminating people that they may see Christ—1 Thes. 5:4-5:

1. Today Jesus is walking, acting, moving, living, working, and saving people in the local churches—Rev. 1:13.

2. When people see Christ in the churches, they can realize that everything in the churches is golden and divine—v. 20.

C. Because we are all one church universally, the local churches throughout the earth should be identical, not in every practical matter but in nature and appearance:

1. All the differences in the local churches in Revelation 2 and 3 are negative—Ephesus lost her first love (2:4), Pergamos is worldly (v. 13), Thyatira is demonic (vv. 20, 24), and Laodicea is lukewarm (3:15).

2. On the positive side, all the local churches are identical because they are golden—1:12.

II. The testimony of Jesus is the great multitude, who have been redeemed “out of every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues” throughout all the generations—Rev. 7:9-17; 21:22; 3:12; cf. Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:14; Gen. 12:2; Rev. 21:3-4; 22:3-5; Isa. 49:10:

A. The great multitude consists of those who are standing before the throne and before the Lamb with palm branches in their hands—Rev. 7:9:

1. Because the world always afflicts the church, wherever the church is, there will always be a certain amount of persecution—John 16:33.

2. Palm branches signify our victory over tribulation, which we have undergone for the Lord's sake; they are also a sign of satisfaction gained through being watered—Rev. 7:14; cf. John 12:13; Exo. 15:27.

B. The Lamb-God sitting upon the throne will tabernacle over us, overshadowing us with Himself—Rev. 7:15b; 2 Cor. 12:9:

1. There is one kind of life that is under God's overshadowing—it is a life that is hidden in God—Col. 3:3; Psa. 91:1; 17:8; cf. Psa. 36:7-9; 57:1; Eph. 6:17.

2. Christ as Jehovah and also as man is the King who is supplying, caring for, and covering God's people; He is the King for ruling and a man who is like a refuge from the wind and a covering from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, and like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land—Isa. 32:1-2.

C. The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd us and guide us to springs of waters of life—Rev. 7:17a:

1. Shepherding includes feeding; under the shepherding of Christ, “I will lack nothing”—Psa. 23:1.

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2. We can never improve ourselves, and we need a shepherd to feed us all the time; He feeds the lambs with His experience as the Lamb of God, who is on the throne of God in and for the house of God—vv. 2-6; Rev. 22:1.

D. All God's redeemed ones eventually will be raptured to the throne of God and will stand there enjoying God's overshadowing and the Lamb's shepherding; this is our destiny.

FOCUS: *We need to be impressed with the vision and experience of the golden lampstands as the testimony of Jesus who are golden in nature, shining in the darkness and identical with one another. This must be our experience in this dark age as part of the great heritage of the Lord's lovers who are the testimony of Jesus, His great multitude, who stand for the Lord in the midst of persecution and tribulation and are victorious in living a life to enjoy the Lord's presence, His overshadowing and shepherding, and springs of waters of life.*

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Scripture Reading:

Rev. 1:1-2, 9-12, 20

- 1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John,
2 Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw.
9 I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands.
20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

2 Pet. 1:4

Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

1 Thes. 5:4-5

- 4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness that the day should overtake you like a thief;
5 For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Rev. 7:13-17

- 9 After these things I saw, and behold, there was a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands.
13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where did they come from?
14 And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 Because of this they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will tabernacle over them.
16 They will not hunger any more, neither will they thirst any more, neither will the sun beat upon them, nor any heat;
17 For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and guide them to springs of waters of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Rev. 21:22

And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

2 Cor. 12:9

And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

Col. 3:3

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Psa. 91:1

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psa. 17:8

Guard me like the pupil of Your eye; / In the shadow of Your wings hide me.

Isa. 32:1-2

1 Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, / And the rulers will rule according to justice.
2 And a man will be like a refuge from the wind / And a covering from the tempest, / Like streams of water in a dry place, / Like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land.

Psa. 23:1-6

1 Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; / He leads me beside waters of rest.
3 He restores my soul; He guides me on the paths of righteousness / For His name's sake.
4 Even though I walk / Through the valley of the shadow of death, / I do not fear evil, / For You are with me; / Your rod and Your staff, / They comfort me.
5 You spread a table before me / In the presence of my adversaries; / You anoint my head with oil; / My cup runs over.
6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me / All the days of my life, / And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah / For the length of my days.

Rev. 22:1

And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.