

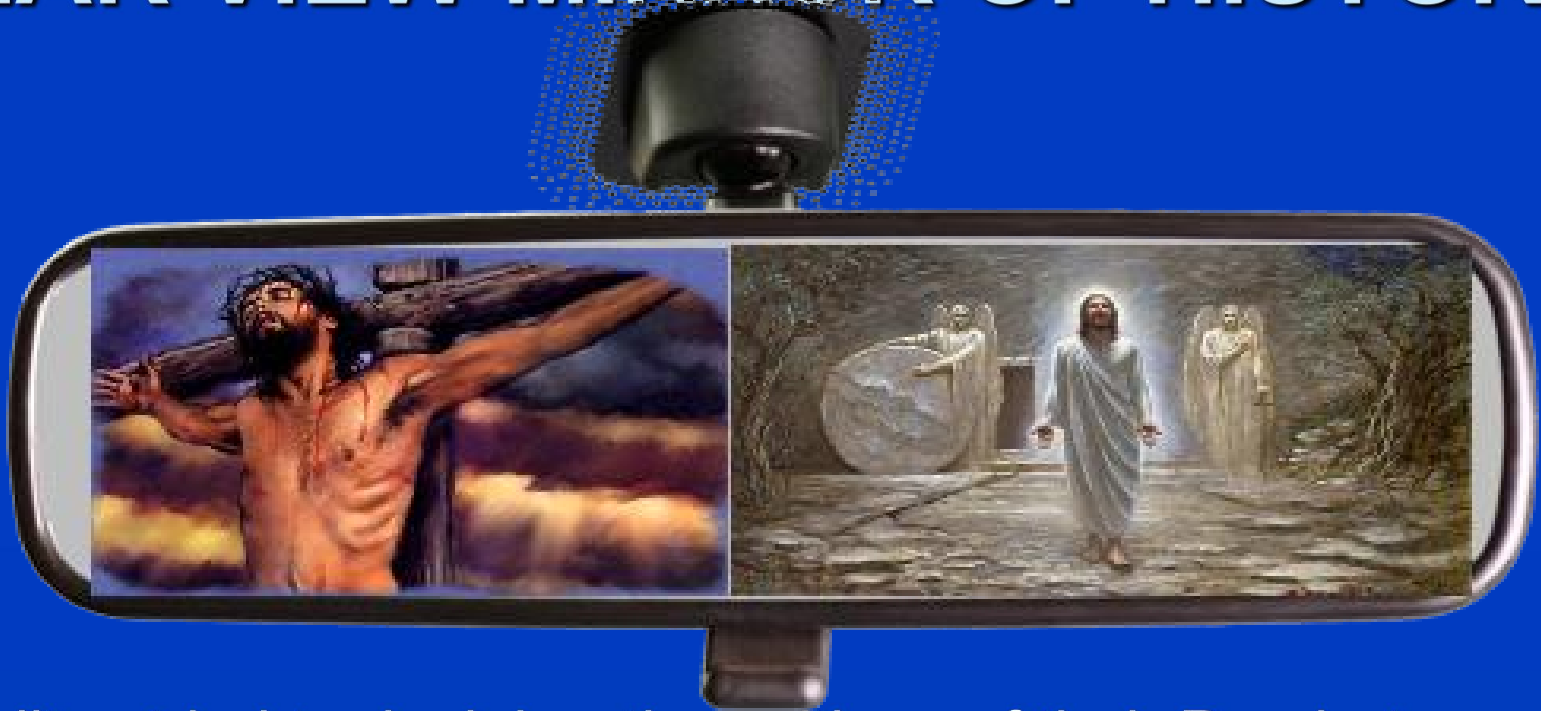
# THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION

## GOD'S JUDGMENT

- Letters are to BELIEVERS! Not to pagans.
- All but 2 congregations have serious problems
- Revelation especially difficult because it consists mostly of unfulfilled prophecy
- We are experiencing the same frustrations that the ancient Israelites faced trying to decipher the Prophets



# REAR VIEW MIRROR OF HISTORY



- Israelites tried to decipher the writings of their Prophets
- Messiah a conqueror? A King? Crucified? Lion? Lamb?
- Imaginative solutions to the paradox of Messiah became traditions and doctrines; the Jews expected these to occur
- They had wrong manmade expectations so they missed the arrival and person of the Messiah Yeshua
- Details of unfulfilled prophecy only certain after they happen!



# REVELATION CHAPTER 2

- Is the “angel” of Ephesus human or Heavenly?
- Most Bible commentators say this “angel” is human
- **Aggelos** = messenger, human or Heavenly
- **Malach** (Hebrew) = messenger, human or Heavenly
- No **aggelos** mentioned in the NT as a bishop or elder
- No separation or pause between chapters 1 and 2





# HOW DO WE DECIDE?

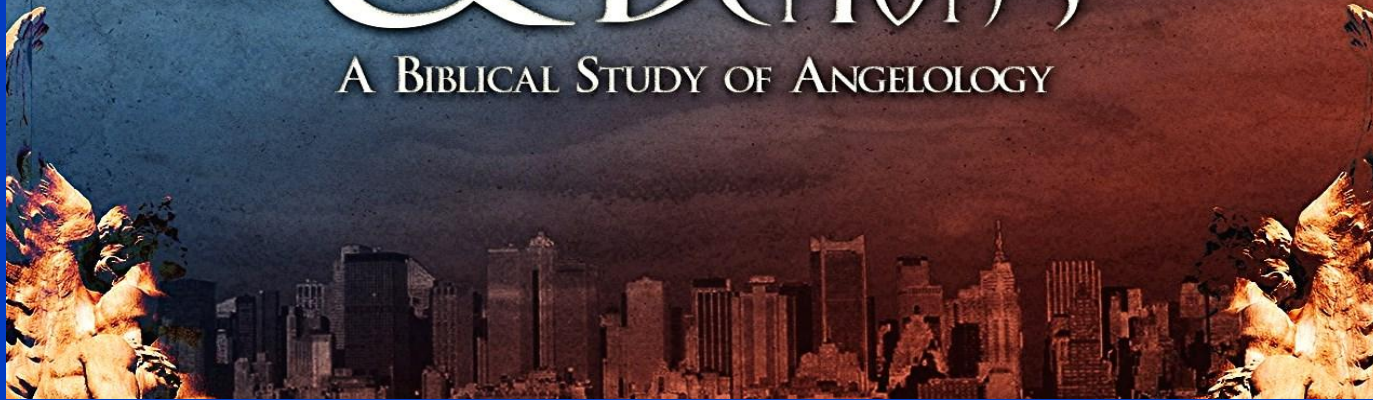


- Firm connection between “angel” of chapter 1:20 and chapter 2:1
- Everywhere else in Revelation *aggelos* (or *angeloi*) is used, it means Heavenly angel
- Aggelos used 165 times in the NT, 67 in Revelation
- In Revelation 56 of the 67 directly means angel
- 3 more times it means Satan or his minions
- Only 4 times in the entire NT does it mean human messenger



# ANGELS & DEMONS

A BIBLICAL STUDY OF ANGELOLOGY



- Scriptural evidence heavily leans towards the “angel” is a Heavenly angel and not a human
- Main reason human messenger is the Theology choice is because it agrees with established sets of belief about angels
- It is best to believe what the Bible says even if we can't square it with what we always thought
- Nothing unbelievable about this being an angel except Theologians think we need to believe something else



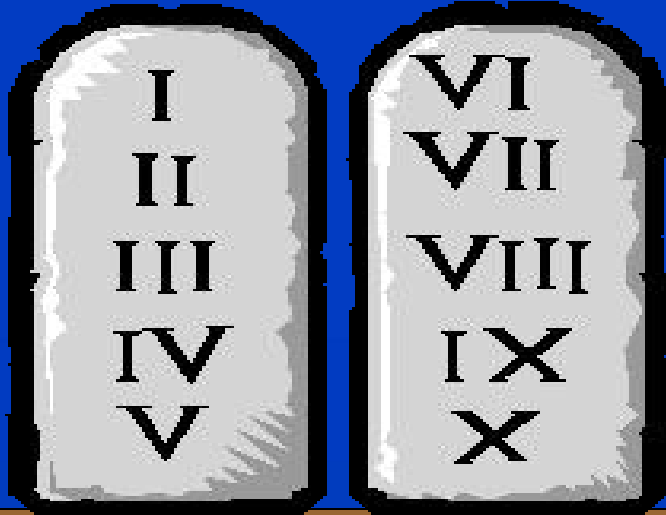
# EPHESUS A CENTER OF PAGAN IDOLATRY



- Paul, Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos all worked with Believers in Ephesus
- Still no name for the divine message-giver
- God commends them for persevering, no tolerance for wicked people, testing “apostles” to find liars
- The only source for the Ephesians to know what was wicked and what was true was the Old Testament
- No New Testament for another 100+ years



# THE LAW



Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18

Love God...

Love neighbor....

- We MUST personally know the Word or we can't test people, spirits, pastors, teachers
- Ephesians have lost the love they had at first
- NOT "first love" like puppy love
- All of God's Laws and Commands based on loving God and loving our fellow man
- Matthew 22
- Obedience must be carried out in the spirit of love

# REPENT, CHANGE, OR ELSE

- KJV: *repent, do the first works, quickly*
- Recapturing love begins in spirit then in action
- Penalty for not changing: congregation will cease to exist as part of the body of Christ
- Is a faith without love, still an authentic faith in Christ?
- Light of God is the Holy Spirit in us
- If Holy Spirit leaves us, are we still saved?

**EPHESUS:  
WHERE'S THE  
LOVE?**

REVELATION 2:1-7





# IS THE SPIRIT OF THE NICOLAITANS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE CHURCH TODAY?

- No evidence for Nicolaitans coming from Nicolas of Acts 6:5
- No evidence for Nicolaitans being a term for clericalism (rigid doctrinalism and authoritarian church leadership)
- Probably a Hebraism that means “we will eat” (*nokhal*)
- Sound-a-like word created in Greek “ton nikolaton”
- It means Believers who say they can eat anything without restriction. The “we will eat” people.



- A Hebraism that occurs in all 7 letters
- An encouragement to pay attention to what God says, and to do it!
- To shock God worshippers out of lethargy and into action
- Same Hebraism found in almost all the Prophets
- This is speaking to Believers and our congregations

He Who  
Has Ears  
*Let Him*  
*Hear*





# TREE OF LIFE IS WITHHELD



- Vs. 7 *“To him winning the victory....”*
- Those who overcome their shortcomings and turn from their identified sins are conquerors
- Those who overcome may eat from The Tree of Life
- Alludes to Gen.3:22, 23
- Those who do NOT overcome are denied The Tree of Life