

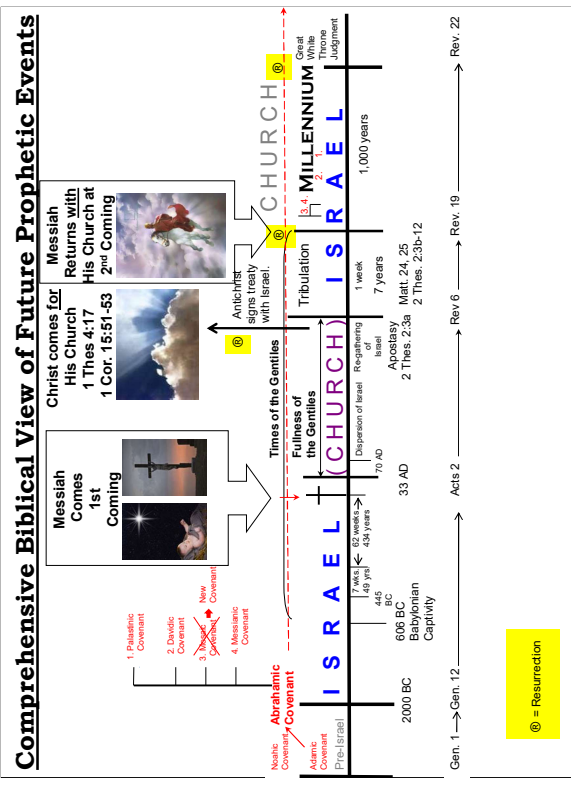
“The Aseity of Jesus Christ”

Rev. 1:17-20

Oct. 16, 2016

Chapter 1

- I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ
- II. The Supremacy of Jesus Christ
- III. The Glorified Appearance of Jesus Christ
- IV. The Aseity of Jesus Christ



1st Coming

- Baby
- Comes to die
- Comes to be man's Savior
- Comes with meekness
- Comes riding on a donkey
- Comes to His people who reject Him
- Comes to bring peace to men's heart

Rev 1:17-20

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

2nd Coming

- Warrior & King
- Comes to rule & reign
- Comes to be man's Judge
- Comes with might and power
- Comes riding on a white horse
- Comes to His people who accept Him
- Comes to bring peace to the world

Rev 1:17-20

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,

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.

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

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.



Dan 8:15-19

15 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man.

16 And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision."

17 So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end."

18 Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand upright.

19 He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for it pertains to the appointed time of the end.

Dan 10:7-12

7 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves.

8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength.

9 But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

Isa 6:1-7

6 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called out to another and said,

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,

The whole earth is full of His glory."

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

5 Then I said,

"Woe is me, for I am ruined!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I live among a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

"Woe is me for:

"I am ruined."

"I am destroyed."

"I am disintegrating."

"I am going to pieces,"

"I am shattered,"

"I am devastated,"

"I am damned",

"I am doomed",

"I am cursed."

Ezek 1:28

28 As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

Ezek 3:23

23 So I got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the glory of the Lord was standing there, like the glory which I saw by the river Chebar, and I fell on my face.

Ezek 9:6

8 As they were striking the people and I alone was left, I fell on my face and cried out saying, "Alas, Lord God! Are You destroying the whole remnant of Israel by pouring out Your wrath on Jerusalem?"

Ezek 43:3

3 And it was like the appearance of the vision which I saw, like the vision which I saw when He came to destroy the city. And the visions were like the vision which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face.

Ezek 44:4

4 Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the house; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord, and I fell on my face.

Judg 13:22

22 So Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God."

Job 42:1-6

- 1 Then Job answered the Lord and said,
 - 2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
 - 3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'"
- "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."
- 4 'Hear, now, and I will speak;
 - 5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;
 - 6 Therefore I retract,
- And I repent in dust and ashes."

Matt 17:4-8

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified.

7 And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid."

8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

Acts 26:13-14

13 at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me.

14 "And when we had all fallen to the ground,

Rev 6:16-17

16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

**Generally in seeing the incarnate Christ they didn't fall over on their face. Why? Because His glory was veiled by human flesh. But to see unveiled glory is so devastating and so shocking that it causes one to fall over lifeless.

Rev 1:17-20

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,**

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.

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

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.

2 Cor 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Rev 1:4

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come,

Rev 1:8

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Rev 1:17

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.

Rev 21:6

6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Rev 22:12-13

13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Attributes of God

ASEITY - He is self-existent. He does not need us or the rest of creation for anything. While everything other than God depends on God for everything, God depends on no one for existence. (Is. 40:18,25; Ex. 3:14,15)

IMMUTABILITY - He is not subject to change in His person. He never changes in his being (who he is) or His promises He has made. (James 1:17; Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6)

INFINITY - He is free from all limitations other than self-limitation. He is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity or his creation.

***Perfect** - in Being (complete, finished, lacking in nothing; no defect). (Matt. 5:48; Ps. 18:30)

***Eternal** - in time. God exists forever, meaning he has no beginning or end (Psalms 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17). He has always existed in the same way: fully and completely as God.

***Omnipresent** - everywhere in space. This is not to say that God's form is spread out so that parts of Him exist in every location. God is spirit; He has no physical form. He is present everywhere in that everything is immediately in His presence. At the same time He is present everywhere in the universe. No one can hide from Him and nothing escapes His notice. (Job 11:7-10)

MENTALITY

MENTALITY - He is the ultimate in intellect.

***Omniscient** - all knowing. God knows all things - 1 John 3:20; Psa.147:5; Heb.4:13;1 Chron. 28:9. This includes the past, the present, and the future. (Is. 46:9,10) It includes actuality, and contingencies. That is, he knows what will happen, and he knows what "could" possibly happen. There was never a time when God did not know anything or everything. The greatest and deepest and most fascinating thing that God knows is Himself, for He is infinitely deep in character and substance and beauty and wisdom.

***Wisdom** - all-wise. He works everything out for the display and enjoyment of his glory and for the good of his people. He never fails, never lacks any foresight, and never estimates. He knows all, and plans all, and he loves to display the glory and beauty of his wisdom by accomplishing things in unexpected and seemingly impossible ways. (Rom, 11:33, 1 Cor. 1:30)

***Veracity** - all-truth. He is reality (truth) Jn. 14:6. God has always been absolute truth and will remain the only source of absolute truth in the universe. In God, every form of perfect truth and every form of perfect knowledge dwells in an absolute form.

There never was or will be a time when God is capable of not being perfectly truthful. He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18) or mislead any of His creatures.

***Faithful** - all-trustworthy. God will always do what He has promised to do (Is. 25:1; Ps. 100:5; Ps. 36:5).

SPIRITUALITY

SPIRITUALITY - He is spirit. (Jn. 4:24)

***Life** - He is the source of all personal energy for His own Being and for others. (Ps. 36:9; Jn. 5:26)

***Personality** - He is the source of personal spontaneity of the will (make decisions without external influence).

He is self-conscious and self-determining. (Is. 46:11)

MORALITY

***Goodness** - He is the source of all that is good in the universe.

Love

Grace

Kindness

Peace

Mercy

Patience

Joy

Gentleness

***Holiness** - His character is free from all impurity. He is eternally separate and distinct from all impurity (Is. 6:3).

***Righteousness** - His conduct is free from all impurity. (Ezra 9:15)

***Justice** - His judgment is free from all impurity and able to determine reward or punishment based on His holiness and righteousness contained in the Law. (Acts 17:31)

SOVEREIGNTY - He is the highest ruler in the universe and is the source, the means, and the goal (Rom. 11:36) of all events, actions, decisions, and all else that affects man in his existence. Nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11). His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted (Isa. 46:11; Ps. 33:11); nothing takes Him by surprise. The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always, and without exception.

***Will** - He prosecutes His plan designed from eternity past (Dan. 4:35; Matt. 13:35; Eph. 1:4, 1 Pet. 1:20, Rev. 17:8), throughout all of time and eternity future.

***Omnipotent** - He is all-powerful. He can exercise dominion over the entire universe, carry out the purposes of his wisdom, govern the hearts of men, and create things out of nothing. (Ps. 62:11, Ps. 135:6, Rev. 1:8, 4:8)

Attributes of God

ASEITY - He is self-existent. He does not need us or the rest of creation for anything. While everything other than God depends on God for everything, God depends on no one for existence. (Is. 40:18,25; Ex. 3:14,15)

IMMUTABILITY - He is not subject to change in His person. He never changes in his being (who he is) or His promises He has made. (James 1:17; Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6)

INFINITY - He is free from all limitations other than self-limitation. He is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity or his creation.

***Perfect** - in Being (complete, finished, lacking in nothing; no defect). (Matt. 5:48; Ps. 18:30)

***Eternal** - in time. God exists forever, meaning he has no beginning or end (Psalm 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17). He has always existed in the same way: fully and completely as God.

***Omnipresent** - everywhere in space. This is not to say that God's form is spread out so that parts of Him exist in every location. God is spirit; He has no physical form. He is present everywhere in that everything is immediately in His presence. At the same time He is present everywhere in the universe. No one can hide from Him and nothing escapes His notice. (Job 11:7-10)

GOD

No beginning.

No ending.

Beginnings

Endings

This is why we ask, "Where did God come from? Who created God?" We are so ingrained with the "beginning and ending" concept.

Philosophy and science are dedicated to the task of accounting for things which have beginnings and endings. They have no category for that which has no origin or ending. Therefore they dismiss it as folly.

UNIVERSE

10 truths of what it means for God to be self-existent?

1. God was not created.

- If God would have been made by a creator, then that creator would also need a creator who needs a creator ... like an infinite chain of toppling dominos, which never gets you anywhere. The buck has to stop somewhere and it does in Gen. 1:1 –

Gen 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. To have a beginning puts you in a different sphere than God.

- He is the first uncaused cause of everything.
- God operates in a sphere of no beginnings and no endings.
- We exist in a sphere of beginnings and endings.

Isa 43:10

10 Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.

10 truths of what it means for God to be self-existent?

1. God was not created.

- If God needs to have been made by a creator, then that creator would also need a creator who needs a creator ... like an infinite chain of toppling dominos, which never gets you anywhere. The buck has to stop somewhere and it does in Gen. 1:1 –

Gen 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. To have a beginning puts you in a different sphere than God.

- He is the first uncaused cause of everything.
- God operates in a sphere of no beginnings.
- We exist in a sphere of beginnings and endings.

2. God Created All Things

Gen 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Acts 17:24

24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

3. God Owns Everything

Ps 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

Ps 50:10-12

10 "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.

11 "I know every bird of the mountains,

And everything that moves in the field is Mine.

12 "If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains.

4. God Has No Needs Acts 17:24-25

24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

That means God is self-existent, self-sufficient, self-contained, and independent. God has within Himself everything necessary to exist, do, and carry out anything he wants. There is nothing above him, greater than him, or outside of him on which he is dependent. He is never forced to act by anything outside of himself. He needs nothing. If God has everything within himself that he needs, then he needs nothing outside of himself to exist. He is self-existent.

Question: So why did God have the need to create the universe?

Answer: No need, just an overflow of His glory so He "went public" (Eph. 1 – "to the praise of His glory")

“So lofty is our opinion of ourselves that we find it quite easy, not to say enjoyable, to believe that we are necessary to God. But the truth is that God is not greater for our being, nor would He be less if we did not exist. That we do exist is altogether of God's free determination, not by our desert nor by divine necessity.”

- **A. W. Tozer**

Knowledge of the Holy

5. God Is Counseled by No One and God Owes No One

Rom 11:34-36

34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

3 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

6. God Does All that He Does, Directed by His Own Will

Ps 115:3

3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Eph 1:11-12

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

7. God, by his very nature of being God, is aseity.

Isa 41:22-24

2 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome.

Or announce to us what is coming;

23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward,

That we may know that you are gods;

Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together.

24 Behold, you are of no account,

And your work amounts to nothing;

He who chooses you is an abomination.

Gal 4:8-9

8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.

8. God Is the Standard of Right and Wrong

1. If God needs nothing outside of himself, then he needs nothing outside of himself to serve as a standard for right and wrong. He himself is that very standard.

2. What makes something right or wrong?

Answer: Whether it is a reflection of God's nature or not.

3. Therefore would God ever create on another planet where murder, rape, stealing, etc. would be good and obedience to parents, humility, truthfulness, etc. would be evil?

9. God is Self-Attesting

1. Who is it that God points to in order to attest to what he claims or to justify the truthfulness of his claims?

Answer: No one - God attests to himself; he is self-attesting.

Heb 6:13

13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

10. God's Self-Attests His Own Word.

1. How do we know the Bible is God's Word?

Answer: We know it is God's Word because God tells us it is His Word.

2. Where does God tell us that the Scripture is his Word? He tells in His Word.

3. If God is *self-existing*, then He does not need or cannot point to anything outside of Himself to justify or attest to Himself or His Word.

4. If the Bible pointed to something outside of itself to attest to its truthfulness, then the Bible would not be our final authority. We would then need to go to that which the Bible pointed to.

The Aseity of God

“I am the first and the last”

“the living One;”

“and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore,”

“I have the keys of death and of Hades.”

Rev 1:17-20

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,

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.

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

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.

Acts 14:15

We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a **living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.**

Rom 9:26

6 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE **LIVING GOD.**"

2 Cor 3:3

3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the **living God,**

"Living God" –

Josh 3:10

10 Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the **living God** is among you,

Ps 42:2

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the **living God**;

Ps 84:2

2 My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the **living God.**

Hos 1:10

10 It will be said to them,

"You are the sons of the **living God.**"

Matt 16:16

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the **living God.**"

Rev 1:17-20

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,

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.

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

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.

John 11:25

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

John 14:19

19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

***His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead for my sin is proof that the self-existent God in all of His glory has provided eternal life for me. I need not be afraid of Him.*

Rev 1:17-20

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,

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.

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

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.

“Gates” –

Job 38:17

17 "Have the **gates** of death been revealed to you,
Or have you seen the **gates** of deep darkness?"

Ps 9:13

13 Be gracious to me, O Lord;
See my affliction from those who hate me,
You who lift me up from the **gates** of death,

Ps 107:18

8 Their soul abhorred all kinds of food,
And they drew near to the **gates** of death.

Isa 38:10

0 I said, "In the middle of my life
I am to enter the **gates** of Sheol;

Matt 16:18

18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build
My church; and the **gates** of Hades will not overpower it.

“Keys of death and of Hades” -

- Death is the condition and Hades is the place.
- **Hades/Sheol** – realm of the dead (heaven or hell) waiting resurrection.
- **Paradise** = Heaven
- **Gehenna** = Hell
- Keys mean access, keys mean authority.
- A key gives someone the power to open and close.
- Christ says, "I'm the One who controls the door to death and Hades."
- I have the keys that open it and let people in. I have the keys to close it.
- I decide who dies and when. I decide who lives.

Rev 1:17-20

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,
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.

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

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.

This gives the outline of the book of Revelation –

“the things which you have seen” – the glorified appearance of Christ. (1)

“the things which are” – letters to the 7 churches. (2,3)

“the things which will take place after these things” – that which is still future. (4-22)

Rev 1:17-20

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,

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.

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

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.

3 sources for understanding symbols:

1. From the immediate context.

Self-Interpreting Symbols

- Rev 1:20 Seven stars “they are” the seven angels of the churches
Rev 1:20 Seven lampstands “they are” the seven churches
Rev 4:5 Seven lamps before “which are” the seven spirits of God
Rev 5:6 The seven horns and “which are” The seven spirits of God sent into all the earth
Rev 5:8 Gold bowls full of “which are” The prayers of the saints
Rev 7:14 The multitude in “these are” The saints coming out of the tribulation
Rev 11:4 The two witnesses “these are” the two olive trees and two lampstands standing before the Lord
Rev 14:4 The 144,000 “these are” Those who did not defile themselves and they followed the Lamb
Rev 17:9 The seven heads of “they are” They are seven hills (Rome)
Rev 19:8 The pure white “for ... is” The righteous deeds of the saints



Helen Howarth Lemmel
1863-1961

The frail old woman sits at a table in her tiny room in Seattle, Washington. Before her is a small plastic organ—one such as a child might have. But, as she fingers the keys and sings, her poor surroundings seem to fade from view, her face shines with the light of heaven, and tears trickle down her time-lined cheeks. Perhaps in her mind she is seated at a majestic pipe organ in some ornate cathedral. But the place doesn't matter. She is intent on worshipping her Saviour.

Helen Howarth Lemmel was born in Wardle, England to a Wesleyan Methodist pastor and his wife on November 14, 1863.

Twelve years later the family migrated to America. Helen lived briefly in Mississippi before settling in Wisconsin. Helen's singing ability soon became evident, gaining her a



Helen Howarth Lemmel
1863-1961

She continued her musical and literary pursuits until her death just 13 days before her ninety-eighth birthday. One day, in 1918, when Helen was aged 55, a missionary friend gave her a tract entitled “**Focused.**” It contained a statement that had a profound impact on her. “So then, turn your eyes upon Him, look full into His face and you will find that the things of earth will acquire a strange new dimness.”

“I stood still,” Helen recalled, “and singing in my soul and spirit was the chorus, with not one conscious moment of putting word to word to make rhyme, or note to note to make melody. The verses were written the same week, after the usual manner of composition.

3 sources for understanding symbols:

1. From the immediate context.
2. From the O.T.
3. From the culture and geography of the day.



Helen Howarth Lemmel
1863-1961

reputation as a brilliant singer, even studying private voice in Germany for four years. She traveled widely throughout the midwest during the early 1900's, giving concerts in many churches.

In time, she married a wealthy European and taught voice at the **Moody Bible Institute** and then at the **Bible Institute of Los Angeles**.

When she became blind her husband abandoned her, which was just one of the many heartaches Helen struggled with during midlife. A brilliant singer and musician, Mrs. Lemmel's remarkable literary abilities were also widely recognized. She composed more than **500 hymns** and poems and also authored a very successful book for children, 'Story of the Bible', and composed many musical pieces for children.



Helen Howarth Lemmel
1863-1961

Thus the hymn was born,

**“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely
dim in the light of His glory and grace.”**

Helen's new hymn was published in London, England in 1918, in the form of a pamphlet. Four years later, it was included in a collection of sixty-seven of Helen's songs, titled **Glad Songs**. That year at the **Keswick Bible Conference** in northern England the hymn was introduced and became immediately a popular favorite. It has since been included in most evangelical hymnals and been translated into many languages.



Helen Howarth Lemmel
1863-1961

Those who knew Helen in her later years tell of her joy and enthusiasm. Though living on government welfare in a sparse bedroom, whenever asked how she was doing, she would reply, 'I'm doing well in the things that count.' Helen was always composing hymns but she had no way of writing them down so she would call friends at all hours and get them to record her lyrics before she forgot them.

Helen had a small plastic keyboard by her bed. There she would play, sing and cry. "One day God is going to bless me with a great heavenly keyboard," she'd say. "I can hardly wait!" Helen died on November 1, 1961, in Seattle, Washington, almost 98 years of age.

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's a light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!
Refrain
3. His Word shall not fail you—He
promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

Refrain

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim,**

In the light of His glory and grace.

2. Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conquerors we are!
Refrain