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Memorials and Mysteries

**‘The Mystery of the Seven stars’
(Revelation 1:19 & 20)**

Intro: The enemies of the Gospel did their very best to try and silence the Apostle John from preaching the Gospel. They tried several times to kill him but with no success. Their final solution was to exile him to a penal colony in the Mediterranean Sea known as the Island of Patmos. What we can take away immediately from this that is there is nothing man can do to the Lord’s servants until God has accomplished His plan for them. Three times in the Gospel of John we find mention of “His hour” in reference to Jesus.

1. Twice it was about the enemies of Christ trying to take Christ with the laying on of Hands with the intent of silencing Christ – **John 7:30 & 8:20.**
2. The third time it was Jesus acknowledging that His hour had indeed come when He would be departing from this earth following His resurrection – **John 13:1.**

The reality is the only way Christ’s enemies could have accomplished their deadly desires against Christ is if He willingly laid down His life – **John 10:17 & 18.** We know His death was preordained before the foundations of the world were ever laid, The point here, is that we have a hedge of protection round about us and until God has accomplished His will in the Believers life, Satan and his ilk have no power over that life. Does this mean that as the Redeemed of the Lord we won’t have persecution, trials and such, NO! **I Peter 4:12 - 16.**

Anyway, here is John the beloved surviving numerous attempts on his life, exiled to Patmos because man was done with him, but God was not! I’m sure John didn’t know the out comb of his enemies, but being faithful (**Matthew 10:25 – 28**), we find God has specifically placed John in a strategic place to pen the Book of Revelations. Our mission in life as the Redeemed of the Lord is not over until God says it is over, so don’t give up on God.

In the opening chapter of the Book of Revelation Jesus appears to John and John is caught-up into heaven where Jesus will layout the end-times and commands John to write to the Seven Churches in Asia minor how He sees them and their condition. **Revelation 1:19 & 20.**

I. The mystery of the Seven Stars – Revelation 19 & 20.

- A. First we need to understand the word ‘angel’ is from the Greek word [ang’el-os] and means a messenger or envoy sent from God.
- B. The mystery of these stars shows the unique relationship that exists between Christ and the pastor (Messengers) of His churches.

1. John is told to write to the pastors of these 7 churches.
2. These pastors are being held in Christ's right hand which is the hand of power and protection of Christ.
3. They are also in His chain of command in that He directs His churches through His messengers.
 - a. Christ is the Chief Shepard – **I Peter 5:1 – 4.**
 - b. Pastors called of God are under shepherds –
 - (1). Elders – **I Peter 5:1 – 4** – rank in life such as maturity & experience.
 - (2). Bishop – **I Timothy 3:1** – an overseer, office of an elder.
4. The qualification and job descriptions are given in both above passages.
 - a. **I Timothy 3:1 – 7.**
 - (1). Note the words “must be” in **verse 3.**
 - (2). His testimony is to be consistent both within the church and the community – **verse 7.**
 - b. **I Peter 5:1 – 4, responsibilities.**
 - (1). Feed the flock – **Veres 2.**
 - (2). Taking the oversight – **verse 2.**
 - c. The parameters – **I Peter 5:1 – 4.**
 - (1). Willingly and not by constraint – **verse 2.** (voluntarily)
 - (2). Not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind – **verse 2.**
 - (3). Not to lord over – (master or hold in subjection) – **verse 3.**
 - (4). To be an example – teach by example – **verse 3.**
5. Paul charged Timothy to, -
 - a. Preach the Word – **Verse 2**
 - b. Be instant in season and out of season – **verse 2** – be ready always.
 - c. Reprove – (convict), rebuke – (admonish sharply), exhort – (encourage).
All of these verbs are in the imperative mood – **verse 2.**
 - d. All longsuffering – (patience) **verse 2.**
 - e. Doctrine – (teaching & instruction) – **verse 2.**
6. **I Peter 3:15** - “give an answer” – [apologia] – verbal defense or reasoned statement.
- C. The seven stars are the seven messengers given by God's call to the church of Asia, and remain His expectations for the messengers of this dispensation.
 1. The stars are God's messengers to the church.
 2. The candlesticks are the churches who are to bring the light of the Gospel to a lost World and to train up (prepare) the Redeemed of the Lord – **Ephesians 4:10 – 16.**