

02-09-22b Revelation noise probs

We're ready now to resume our study in Revelation chapter 3, verse 1, where the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking to the angel of the church in Sardis. In our first lesson this morning, we spent the bulk of our time looking at Isaiah chapter 30, which in many ways is an Old Testament corollary and an Old Testament reminder of some of the very same principles that the Lord Jesus is expressing to believers in these churches. To the angel of the church in Sardis.

Sardis was once a great city, as we've seen in the histories of Ephesus and Pergamos and Thyatira and Smyrna, there is a history associated with each of these towns. And Sardis, its great claim to fame was that although it was a mighty city, in the days of Cyrus of Persia, they did not maintain adequate perimeter security and they were surprised and conquered and virtually destroyed by the armies of Cyrus. And this lived long in the memory, kind of like the Civil War in the United States will never be forgotten.

The surprise and destruction due to lack of watchfulness was a very prominent feature in the history of Sardis. There's a lot more I can say about Sardis, but that will suffice for our purposes. Because you'll see that theme reflected in what Jesus has to say here.

These things says he who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. Well, we could easily spend the rest of our lesson just on that phrase, because I thought we were Trinitarian, I thought we believed in the Father and the Son and one Holy Spirit. Here he says he who has the seven spirits of God.

So what are these seven spirits? If you look at your New King James, it has spirit capitalized, which would indicate that it is a title for deity. If you look at the New American Standard, it has spirits capitalized, which indicates that they think this is a title for deity. What is the basis for this? Well, we've already seen this same idea back in chapter one, verse four.

Remember Revelation chapter one, verse four, where he says, 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 and from the seven spirits who are before his throne. Now who is he who is and who was and who is to come? It's God the Father. We know this because look at verse five.

And from Jesus the faithful witness. So if there was any doubt, and that's sort of a trick question, because we know that Jesus is to come. He says much the same thing about himself.

But in this introduction, we have our Trinitarian idea. John communicates grace and peace from him, God the Father, who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne. Now that is to come, or is coming, is the idea.

Is and who was and who is coming. When is God the Father coming by the way? Is he coming at the rapture or the second advent? Not really. When is God the Father coming? When will God's

dwelling be among men? New Jerusalem.

Those who have the right to enter the city, have the right to the tree of life that grows next to the river that flows from before the throne of God, God's dwelling will be with men. And that's when you have the ultimate Emmanuel, God with us. For those believers who recognize and seize that opportunity to dwell with God, we have to recognize it now and seize it now.

It's not like you can catch up on this having a chat. I like to talk to my brothers. They always have interesting thoughts about things that we're studying and so forth.

And I was talking to one of my brothers and he was pointing out the fact that the, well now I can't even remember what I was talking to him about. But what I was talking about is God with us and the Father dwelling among men. And that is a privilege for believers who see it now and take hold of it now.

And we do that by faith. We have to treat what the word of God says as reality. So him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne.

Well I remember now what it was. I was talking about this with a couple of different people, also my roommate from Navy. The whole idea that well if you miss the boat now and if you fail to recognize it now, can't I catch up in the millennial kingdom? I'll see Jesus and I'll be so much more motivated and can't I kind of make up for lost time in the millennium or sometime down the road? Won't we still be learning and growing after our resurrection and our transformation and so forth? And from the word of God I will tell you the answer is yes.

We will be learning and we will be growing. But the example that I gave in that conversation is one from my own childhood growing up. We used to build fence around my dad's at different times.

It was 40 acres, 60 acres, 80 acres and so on. But we had fences as land would come and go. And you can see where in some cases you have, in fact right out here in my backyard if you look at our slat fence out there, there's a place where a tree has grown through the fence.

Well things can happen to trees when they're growing that can stunt their growth. If you look at these windswept trees that are clinging to windy crags up in the high mountains and so forth and the wind twists and deforms them. You go to Yosemite and you'll see some of these grotesquely deformed trees.

They're grown and they're alive but their growth has been hindered and changed by some obstacle that they encounter. Whether it's a fence or wind or being crushed by a larger tree and a big branch broken off, being struck by lightning. Some of the trees up in my dad's woods have been struck by lightning.

Whole sides of the tree have been blown off but the tree survived but it grows in a stunted form.

And my answer to the question is this. Yes, I think we can certainly wake up and we can certainly learn and grow in the eternal future.

But you will never be the tree you would have been if you had started your growth in a healthy fashion here in this life. And the stunting and the deformation that takes place for apathetic believers and indifferent believers and rebellious and negative believers in this life is something that will always mark you. You will never be at the place that you could have been.

A believer who wakes up and smells the coffee in this life and gets with it and pursues their high calling of God in Christ Jesus is going to have a head start that no one can overcome. Those believers are not going to be caught and overtaken from behind by somebody who is apathetic and indifferent in this life. It's like stunting the growth of a tree.

The tree can still live and grow, it can still be fruitful and push out leaves and branches but it will not be the tree that it would have been if it had not had this episode of stunting or deformation or partial destruction. This is a biblical analogy. If you look in Romans where Paul is talking about Israel and how the dead branches were broken off and sometimes those branches are gathered in the bundles and burned.

Other times you can graft a branch back in. It shows some signs of life you can graft it back in. But I promise you a branch that has been cut off and grafted back in is not going to be the same branch it would have been if it had never been cut off in the first place.

There is a loss involved there. There is a waste of time and a loss of opportunity that you just can't get back. The conditions we have in this life for faith and for growth.

Where God is turning cursing to blessing. Where God feeds us with bread of affliction and waters of adversity is a unique opportunity for God to manifest his strength in our weakness. To show his graciousness as we wait on him.

And to learn and grow as he waits on us to realize things that can only be accomplished in the stress and the pressures and the difficulties of this life. And it really is possible if you look at life from this perspective to in everything give thanks. This is the will of God concerning you.

Whatever is facing you. Whatever pressure. Even if it is a situation of your own making.

God wasn't surprised by it. God doesn't throw up his hands and say well you made your bed you are going to have to lie in it. Anytime we turn.

Anytime we look to God. Anytime we get back into the mode of waiting for him and trusting in him for deliverance. Even from situations of our own making.

God is gracious. God is canvassing the earth. We are going to see that here in a minute.

God is searching the earth trying to find believers who will just look to him. No matter what caused the situation. His mercies are renewed every morning.

We woke up in a big set of problem circumstances this morning. Regardless of how they got here. God's mercies are fresh and available.

So we don't want to be stunted. We don't want to have to start our eternal existence with God at a deficit. And behind.

And being saved yet so as by fire. And having all of the time that God granted us here wasted. Having our one talent taken away and given to someone else.

People say well I'll get with it later. We were talking about it on the break. Later is now.

Behold now is the appointed time. Now is the day of deliverance. And it's a deliverance for believers.

We can't say mañana. Him who is and who was and who is to come. And from the seven spirits who are before his throne.

So we have a new piece of information here. We saw it in chapter one. But these seven spirits that Jesus mentions in Revelation chapter three.

Are the spirits that were mentioned in Revelation chapter one. As being before the throne. So this limits our options.

People have tried to say well these seven spirits. He's making his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire. So maybe these are seven angels.

People have said there are seven archangels. Maybe they're associated with the seven ancient planets. The seven wanderers that we spoke of before.

And that there's some sort of an idea. That this is Gabriel and Michael and five others. That are somehow supervising the human race.

The prince of Persia or whatever. Not at all. These are before the throne of God.

Well we need a little bit more information. About these seven spirits. So while we're here in the book of Revelation.

Just turn the page over to Revelation chapter four and verse five. Revelation chapter four. This is describing the scene in heaven.

And remember this is not a literal description. How do I know that? Because as we have observed the word of God. This is what science does.

Science makes observation. And then develops theorems and rules based on observation. As we observe the word of God.

We find that when God begins to speak in symbolic or metaphoric terms. The entire scene is in those terms. He does not switch back and forth between literal and symbolic.

You begin at Revelation four one. After these things I looked and behold a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I had heard like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me said.

Come up here and I will show you what must take place after these things. Now what is the first voice which he had heard that was like a trumpet? It's the Lord Jesus. Revelation chapter one.

The first voice which I had heard like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me said. Come up here. Now where have we heard this confluence of voice and trumpet before? Think about Paul describing the rapture.

The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout. With the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise.

So here we have the voice of the Lord Jesus. So we have a shout which I think is the Lord Jesus Christ shouting giving an order. People think this is strange.

They think well it's all one person speaking. But if you've ever been in the military or seen a military parade. If you'll notice when you have platoons ranged over a parade field.

The commanding officer, the senior officer for the parade is out there in front. And he will say present arms. And when he says present you'll hear the command echoed all through the ranks.

It's repeated. Every command that's given by the commanding officer for that event, that evolution. Is repeated by the subsequent commanders to be sure that everyone can hear it.

So you have a command of preparation and you have a command of execution. The command of preparation is present. So he says present.

And all the platoon commanders say present. And then he'll say arms. And when he says arms everybody does it simultaneously.

Lord willing. It's the Marine Corps they all do it simultaneously. And order arms.

And all of these commands will be echoed down the line. If they change to route, step, march or whatever. Those commands will be echoed.

So what I believe from what the word of God says here. Is the Lord Jesus Christ is going to descend from heaven with a shout. It's his own shout.

He's the one that gives the shout. The first voice we hear at the rapture. Dead or alive.

My sheep know my voice. He says. We don't have to know the voice of the archangel.

All we have to know is the voice of the Lord. And when he descends. He himself.

It doesn't say he's going to send an archangel. The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout. That's his shout.

That's his voice. The very first alert that we have. That our time on this earth is over.

And we're going to ever be with the Lord. Is to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. He will descend from heaven with a shout.

Like the voice. Like the sound of a trumpet. And we also have the voice of the archangel.

And the archangel is going to be repeating the command. The trumpet of God. And he says come up here.

And Revelation chapter 4 verse 1. Is almost universally recognized. As being a metaphor and a symbol. When the voice that John first heard.

Says come up here. That's a representation. That's a foreshadowing of the rapture.

And you had the letters to the seven churches. In Revelation chapter 2 and chapter 3. And then Revelation chapter 4 verse 1. The voice says come up here. And I will show you what's going to happen after.

Everything in Revelation 4 and following. All the way down to chapter 20. Is what takes place on the earth.

After the church is gone. The church is not mentioned. For the next 16 chapters.

In Revelation. It's all about believers. Who are in the 70th week of Daniel.

And the great tribulation and so forth. When I say they are not mentioned. I should qualify that.

They are not mentioned on earth. There are some mentions of the host. Without number in heaven.

Come up here. And I will show you what must take place. After these things.

Immediately I was in the spirit. And behold a throne was standing in heaven. And one sitting on the throne.

Have you ever thought about. What's the first thing we are going to see. Because the Lord is

going to descend from heaven.

Shout forth to the archangel. Trump of God. Dead in Christ rise.

We who are alive and remain. We are changed in a moment. In the twinkling of an eye.

We join him and them. In the air. The dead in Christ.

So shall we ever be with the Lord. Well then. We don't all come down to earth.

And start the millennium. We go away. What do you think is the first thing we will see.

As we leave this earthly veil. I think we are going to see the same thing John saw. I think we will see a throne.

Standing in heaven. And one sitting on the throne. Jesus said.

Those who confess my name before men. I will confess before my father. Who is in heaven.

And I think the judgment seat of Christ. Is going to be held. In the heavenly courts.

And I think God the father is going to be watching. The Lord Jesus Christ will preside. And I think God the father is going to be.

There in the room as it were. He who was sitting. Was like a jasper stone.

And a sardius in appearance. And there was a rainbow around the throne. There has been a lot of comparison.

What exactly is a jasper stone. What exactly is a sardius. And these may actually be references to diamonds.

And clear crystalline gems. That are so bright. That you have difficulty even looking at them.

And there was a rainbow around the throne. Like an emerald in appearance. And again.

There is some uncertainty about some of these. Words for gemstones. But emerald is a pale green.

Semi transparent type of stone. I am right about that aren't I? Emerald green. And so this is all about brightness.

And when you look at a diamond. You know they shine it in the light. And so forth.

You see rainbow colors. In the prismatic refraction. And reflection of light.

Through the various facets. And that is what this is being compared to. The appearance of God.

Around the throne were 24 thrones. And upon the thrones I saw 24 elders. Sitting clothed in white garments.

And golden crowns on their heads. Who are the 24 elders? Well we move forward in the revelation. We will talk about that.

Out from the throne come flashes of lightning. And sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire.

Burning before the throne. Which are the seven spirits of God. Notice.

Out of the throne. Flashes of lightning. Sounds and peals of thunder.

There are seven lamps of fire. Burning before the throne. Which are the seven spirits of God.

And before the throne. There is something like a sea of glass. Like crystal.

And in the center. And around the throne. Four living creatures.

Full of eyes. In front. And well.

There is a lot you can say about this. It deserves a study of its own. But.

We now have. Three different pieces of information. About the seven spirits.

One. They are before the throne of God. Secondly.

They are pictured as seven lamps of fire. And thirdly. The Lord Jesus Christ.

Holds them. He has them. It says.

The one who has the seven spirits of God. So they are in some sense. Subordinate to.

The Lord Jesus Christ. In the same way. You find the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even though he is co-equal. And co-eternal. With God the Father.

He has a functionally subordinate role. To God the Father. Hence the names.

Father and Son. Well. If you turn another chapter forward.

In Revelation. To Revelation chapter five. And verse six.

We have our. Fourth and final reference. To the seven spirits.

Here in Revelation. Once again. John is looking at.

The heavenly scene. They are trying to find. They are talking about this.

Who has overcome. To be able to open the book. With its seven seals.

Then in verse six. Of Revelation five. I saw between the throne.

With the four living creatures. And the elders. Those are the twenty four elders.

A lamb standing. As if slain. Having seven horns.

And seven eyes. Which are the seven spirits of God. Sent out into.

All the earth. So now we have another piece of information. About the seven spirits.

They are. Seven eyes. That are sent out into.

All the earth. Now think about. Lamps.

In one case they are. Presented as. Lamps.

Burning with fire. Here they are presented as. Eyes.

That go out. Sent out. Into all the earth.

Now that is a very important. Verb there. At the end of verse six.

That is the verb. Apostello. Sent forth.

In this case it is. Apostalmenoi. Which is a perfect.

Passive participle. From apostello. Participle of course.

Is a noun. Formed from a verb. We do that.

With an ing. In English. To swim.

As a verb. Swimming is a. Is a gerund. Or a participle.

Here you have. Apostalmenoi. Ones.

Being sent. It is a passive participle. Which sees the action.

Of being sent. Into all the earth. What did Jesus say.

In John. In the upper room. Discourse to the disciples.

I am going away. But I will send to you. Another comforter.

The verb he uses there. Is apostello. I will send.

Another comforter. He will lead you. Into all truth.

I would submit to you. That. The seven.

Spirits. Here. Are a representation.

A symbolic representation. Of a single person. Of the trinity.

God the holy spirit. To substantiate this. Let's go back.

And look at Zachariah. Take the old testament. Antecedent for this.

Zachariah chapter four. Beginning at verse one. Zachariah four.

Now again. We are referring to passages. And it is tantalizing.

Because we want to. I certainly want to just. Camp there and say.

Let's study this. Let's go in. And get all of the details.

And we don't have time to do that. So. You will.

Pardon me. For not explaining. Everything we encounter.

But we will get the gist. We will get the main idea. Zachariah chapter four.

It's the book right before Malachi. Then the angel who was speaking with me. Returned.

And roused me. As a man who is awakened. From his sleep.

I find this. Fascinating. Because.

The bible uniformly refers. To the death of a believer. As sleep.

We will not perceive. Those who are asleep. Stephen.

After he was stoned. Fell asleep. Etc.

So here. Is Zachariah. And he is roused.

As a man who is awakened. From his sleep. Being awakened from sleep.

Picture of resurrection. He said to me. What do you see? And I said.

I see. And behold. A lamp stand.

All of gold. With it's bowl. On the top of it.

And it's seven lamps. On it. With seven spouts.

Belonging to each of the lamps. Which are on the top of it. Also.

Two olive trees by it. One on the right side of the bowl. And the other.

On it's left side. Then I said to the angel. Who was speaking with me.

Saying. What are these? My lord. So the angel.

Who was speaking with me. Answered and said to me. Do you not know what these are? And I said.

No my lord. Then he said to me. This is the word of the lord.

To Zerubbabel. Remember. Zerubbabel is the one.

Who is going to rebuild the temple. In the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. Not by might.

Nor by power. But by my spirit. Says the lord of hosts.

Now think again. What was the question? What is this whole apparatus? With the trees. The oil.

The spouts. The bowls. And the seven lamps.

He says. The answer to the question is. Not by might.

Nor by power. But by my spirit. Says the lord of hosts.

What are you? O great mountain. Before Zerubbabel. You will become a plain.

And he will bring forth. The top stone. With shouts of grace.

Grace to him. There is a mountain of opposition. There is a mountain of problems.

To be overcome. For the temple to be rebuilt. It's not going to be done.

By human might. It's not going to be done. By human power.

It's going to be done. By the power of the spirit. What is the symbol.

That God gives. Zechariah. To communicate to Zerubbabel.

To emphasize that fact. It is. This.

Seven. Lamp. Stand.

Fed by. The olive trees. One on the right hand.

And one on the left. Each lamp has its. Spout.

And the spout is the place. Where the wick comes out. If you have seen the ancient lamps.

Particularly from this period. The clay ones are a flat clay. And it has a little spout.

It looks like a flattened out. Cream tissue. And the spout is where the wick would lay.

The wick would lay. In the puddle of oil. On the inside.

It would drape over the spout. And the light. Would come from that.

That wick. Laying over the spout. These are golden.

This is all of gold. It's permanent. It can't be shattered.

It can't be changed. Gold reflects the light. So much better.

Than clay does. You get this beautiful. Ornamented.

Lamp stand. And. This mountain.

That seems to stand in the way. You can't build. A building.

On a mountain. You know. People have to level off an area.

If they want to build a house. He says. This mountain.

Is going to become a plain. And he will bring forth. The top stone.

He's going to finish this building. Shouting grace. Grace to it.

It was all done by grace. It was the grace of God. It was the spirit of God.

That made. This happen. Also the word of the Lord.

Came to me saying. The hands of Zerubbabel. Have laid the foundation.

Of this house. And his hands. Will finish it.

He had the privilege. Of starting it. And nothing is going to stand.

In his way. He's not going to be killed. He's not going to be deflected.

He's not going to be deposed. He's not going to be run out of town. He started it.

And God's going to give him. The grace to finish it. Then you will know.

That the Lord of hosts. Has sent me. To you.

For who has despised. The day of small things. And a lot of times.

The beginning of something. Seems very small. And very insignificant.

You lay one foundation stone. Nobody can see the finished temple. Nobody can see.

What the grace of God. Is going to do. Through that individual.

But these seven. Will be glad. When they see.

The plumb line. In the hand of Zerubbabel. These are the eyes of the Lord.

Which range to and fro. Throughout the earth. And these seven.

Refers back to that. Seven bold. Lamp stand.

And these seven. Will be glad. When they see.

The plumb line. In the hand of Zerubbabel. Now why does Zerubbabel.

Have a plumb line. In his hand? Because he has set. The foundation stone.

And he's figuring out. Where am I going to set. The next stone? I've got to set stone.

Number two here. I've got to. You know.

Line upon line. Precept upon precept. Stone upon stone.

You're going to build. One thing on another. How do you set your next stone? And make sure you're building.

Straight and level. As it says. Rightly dividing.

The word of truth. In Greek. That literally means.

Laying a straight course. It was a word used. For laying bricks.

How do you make sure. You're laying a wall. That is plumb and square.

Well in those days. You used a plumb line. They didn't have.

Vacuum sealed tubes. With bubbles. And sophisticated.

Carpenters levels. They used a plumb line. Tie a weight.

With a pointed bob. Onto a string. Hang it from above.

And you line up. Your next block. With your foundation stone.

Using the plumb line. Who has the eyes. To see.

What God. Is going to accomplish. Through Zerubbabel.

What God is going to accomplish. Through the rebuilding. Of the temple.

And the restoration. Of his people. To the land.

People who have. Spiritual eyes. People who have.

Spiritual eyesight. People who have. Spiritual perception.

I will send to you. Apostello. Another comforter.

He will. Lead you. Into all truth.

Thy word. Is a lamp. Into my feet.

And a light. Into my path. It is.

The word of God. And the spirit of God. That enables us.

And empowers us. The carnal mind. Cannot understand.

The things of the spirit. They are spiritually. Discerned.

This. Seven fold. Lamp stand.

Talks about the ministry. Of a single person. Of the Trinity.

God the Holy Spirit. Who is. Sent forth.

By the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Son. Was sent forth.

By God the Father. God the Spirit. Was sent forth.

By God the Son. And although they are. The three of them.

Co-equal. And co-eternal. They have organized.

Themselves. Into a hierarchy. For the purposes.

Of administering. God's plan. For the human race.

And it is a voluntary. Submission. It implies.

No denigration. No loss of quality. No loss of attribute.

It is a functional. Example. For our benefit.

An example of humility. An example of submission. And if you can look at God.

And see God the Holy Spirit. Subordinating himself. To God the Son.

And God the Father. In the same way. That the Lord Jesus Christ.

Subordinated himself. To the Father. Without loss.

Of quality. Without loss. Without any intimation.

Or hint. Of reduction. Or of diminishment.

Or of somehow. Being made inferior. It is recognition.

That there is a job. To be done. There are functions.

To be fulfilled. And that is exactly. The way it works.

In the church. We are exhorted. To submit ourselves.

One to another. Put others interests. Ahead of our own.

And it doesn't mean. That we are diminished. Or that we are inferior.

It means. That we recognize. The functional roles.

That are open to us. That God has assigned. That are within.

The prescribed boundaries. Of his will. And if the Bible says.

Women keep silent. In church. That is not a denigration.

That is not an implication. That there is some loss. Of quality.

There are many women. Who could out shine. Out teach.

Out think. Out decide. Men.

Who are in a position. Of authority. In a marriage.

Or in a church. Or anywhere else. But God.

In the wisdom. That transcends our own. Has decided.

That there will be. Order. There will be.

A hierarchy. There will be. An authority structure.

And. Our. Functioning within that.

Is a part of our. Operating in faith. The hands of Zerubbabel.

Have laid the foundation. And his hands. Will finish it.

That was God's decision. Were there other qualified men. In Israel? Probably.

But here is. Zerubbabel. God has placed him.

In a position of leadership. And authority. God is going to let him start it.

And God is going to let him finish it. Just as Solomon. Built on the foundation.

That David laid. And the materials that he gathered. In building the first temple.

Who has despised. The day of small things. I will tell you.

Who despises. The day of small things. The one who does not have.

The seven fold. Eyes of the spirit. Operating in their soul.

We miss. Small things. We overlook.

Significance. It might have been a small thing. To see.

Jesus. Walking through. The land of Israel.

And teaching. But. And yet it was.

A huge. It was. The beginning.

And the culmination. At the same time. Of everything.

In the plan of God. It was the beginning. Of the implementation.

Of God's salvation plan. It was the end. For practical purposes.

Of the age of Israel. It was the end. Of the dominance of the law.

And the law of sin and death. And what the law could not do. Christ did.

When he came. It was a small thing. To see him.
With twelve followers. Sleeping on the ground. And teaching.
In towns and villages. But people that had eyes to see. People like.
Anna. And people like Simeon. And people like.
John. And Elizabeth. And Joseph.
And Mary. People like Peter. And Andrew.
And James. And John. Could see.
Something there. They had eyes to see. But there was a lot more.
Than a small thing. Going on. Who has despised.
The day of small things. These. Seven.
Will be glad. When they see the plumb line. In the hand of Zerubbabel.
When we look at things. Through the eyes. Of the spirit.
When we look. With the perception. That God gives us.
Through his word. And through his spirit. We can see.
The end. From the beginning. We can see.
That in. The difficulties. In the mountain.
That is going to be removed. In front of us. The grace of God.
And the faithfulness of God. And the power of God. Are going to be made manifest.
So. The seven. Spirits.
Although it's. Hard for us. To cope with.
Especially. In our English Bible. Is a reference.
To God. The Holy Spirit. Every.
Mention. That we have here. Even when.
You go to Isaiah. Eleven. Two.

There is a seven fold. Description of God. The Holy Spirit.

And you might want. To just make a quick. Note of that passage.

Isaiah. Eleven. Two.

When he's talking about. The shoot. From the stem of Jesse.

And the branch. From his roots. That will bear fruit.

It says in verse. Two. The spirit of the Lord.

Will rest on him. The spirit. Of wisdom.

And understanding. The spirit. Of counsel.

The spirit. Of strength. The spirit.

Of knowledge. The spirit. Of the fear.

Of the Lord. And he will delight. In the fear.

Of the Lord. And will not judge. By what his eyes see.

Nor make a decision. By what his ears hear. But with righteousness.

He will judge the poor. And decide with fairness. For the afflicted.

Of the earth. He will strike. The earth.

With the rod. Of his mouth. And with the breath.

Of his lips. He will slay the wicked. Righteousness.

Will be the belt. About his loins. Faithfulness.

The belt. About his waist. And it goes on.

To describe. The millennial kingdom. But that seven fold spirit.

He is described. First and foremost. As the spirit.

Of the Lord. And then he is described. As the spirit.

Of wisdom. Understanding. Counsel.

Strength. Knowledge. And fear.

Of the Lord. And these are all. Attributes.

They are all qualities. That are developed. Inculcated.

And created. Within us. As a part.

Of our regeneration. As a part. Of the ongoing work.

Of God. And the Holy Spirit. And experiential.

Sanctification. As they say. In theology class.

So. It is. A seven fold ministry.

Seven. We have already studied. That is the number.

Of perfection. And completeness. It is the number.

Of fulfillment. Why is it used. In Revelation chapter three.

Well we return now. To the letter. The angel.

Of the church. In Sardis. Right.

He who has. The seven spirits of God. And the seven stars.

What does this tell us? These eyes. Range to and fro. In the earth.

Don't they? These eyes. Are the eyes of perception. This is God's perception.

This is how God sees. And how God knows. For our purposes.

In the language of accommodation. The eyes of the Lord. Are ranging to and fro.

In the earth. This is the ministry of God. The Holy Spirit.

How does God know what is going on. In our souls. How does God hear our prayers.

We have the indwelling. Of the Holy Spirit. We have seen before.

How the Holy Spirit. Translates our prayers. To God.

In groanings. That cannot be uttered. He who has.

The seven spirits of God. And the seven stars. He knows everything.

About what is going on. In the earth. He knows everything.

About what is going on. In the churches. We know the seven stars.

Are the seven churches. That has already been described. And these eyes.

Are the eyes of knowledge. There is nothing. That is hidden.

And covered. From his view. Therefore he says.

I know your deeds. I know that you have a name. Onoma.

In Greek. O-N-O-M-A. Onoma.

You have a name. That you are alive. But you are dead.

Name in this case. Is reputation. It is just like in English.

We say. Well he has really made a name. For himself.

Making a name. For myself. Is the name of a. Of a. Roger Miller.

Record album. That. My brothers and I. Used to play.

When we were young. Came around. Around 1970.

Or 1971. It has a picture of. Roger Miller.

Out in a workshop. Making these wooden letters. And they are stuck up.

In a semi-circle. Over his head. And it says.

Roger M-I-L-L. And then he has got the E. In his hands. And the R is on the bench.

And the name of the album. Is making a name. For myself.

Well. What do we know. About having a name? The name.

That these. Insurgents have. Is.

That they are alive. That they are a. A powerful. Living.

Spiritually. Vital. Church.

He says. That is your reputation. But guess what? You are dead.

How do I know that? I have got the seven eyes. I have got the seven stars. You cannot.

Deceive. The Lord God. You can deceive.

People. You can deceive. Yourself.

The heart is deceitful. Above all. Things.

And desperately wicked. It says. In Jeremiah.

17. 9. And what a tragic thing. To deceive ourselves.

And think that we are alive. Tell ourselves. And tell each other.

That we are alive. When we are. In fact.

Dead. But that is the reputation. You can think of.

Second Timothy. 3. 5. Where Paul talks about. Believers.

Who have a. Form of godliness. But deny its power. The form.

Is the appearance. That can give you. A reputation.

You can think about. Genesis. 11.

4. What was one of the first. Egregious. Sins.

In the human race. What did they say. When they started building.

The tower of Babel. Genesis. 11.

4. They said. Come. Let us build.

For ourselves. A city. And a tower.

Whose tops. Will reach into heaven. And let us.

Make for ourselves. A name. Otherwise.

We will be. Scattered. Over the face.

Of the whole earth. Let us. Make for ourselves.

A name. And that's exactly. What they have done.

In Sardis. They have made. For themselves.

A name. How. Does this.

Happen. They say. Well.

We've got. The seed. And we've got.
The soil. And we're getting. All ready.
To bear fruit. But you remember. The parable.
Of the sower. And the seed. You think about Luke.
Chapter 8. And verse 14. The seed. Which fell.
Among the thorns. These are the ones. Who have heard.
That as they go. On their way. They are choked.
With worries. And riches. And pleasures.
Of this life. And bring no. Fruit to maturity.
The seed. Gets planted. The stalks grow.
But there are. These thorns. And cares.
That choke the word. And render it. Unfruitful.
You have a name. That you are alive. But you are dead.
It's not enough. To just have the green shoot. Coming out of the ground.
We are. Sown. To bear fruit.
We are sown. To bring grain. Into the storehouse.
The seed. Which fell. Among thorns.
So what do you think. The problem is. In Sardis.
Without even going any further. From what the Lord. Jesus Christ says.
They have heard. The word. That's one of the reasons.
They have a name. That they are alive. But.
They are choked. With worries. Distracted.
By riches. Allured. By the pleasures.
Of this life. Worries. Riches.

Pleasures. Can. Cause.

Believers. To bring. No.

Fruit. To. Maturity.

Here's a passage. We don't go to. Very often.

1 Timothy. Chapter 5. Verse 5. Where Paul is talking about. Widows in the church.

He says. He's talking about. Honor widows.

Who are widows indeed. But if any widow. Has children.

Or grandchildren. They. The children.

Must first learn. To practice. Piety.

In regard. To their own family. And to make.

Some. Recompense. To their parents.

I.E. If there's a woman. That is. Widowed.

Her children. Are supposed to help. Take care of her.

That's what the word of God says. Make some return. This is acceptable.

In the sight of God. Now she who is a widow. Indeed.

And who has been left alone. No children. No husband.

Has fixed her hope. On God. And continues.

In entreaties. And prayers. Night and day.

But. She who gives herself. To wanton.

Pleasure. Is dead. Even while.

She lives. This is a woman. In the church.

Who. Gives in. To one of those three things.

Jesus mentioned. Pleasures of this life. Dead.

Even while. She lives. And Paul tells Timothy.

Prescribe these things. As well. So that they may be.

Above reproach. But if anyone. Does not provide.

For his own. And especially for those. Of his household.

He has denied the faith. And is worse. Than an unbeliever.

So we have a responsibility. To look out for one another. To care for our own.

And people who are. Lacking some. Part of their support.

Or some part of their family. Should dedicate themselves. To prayer.

And to. Fixing their hope. On God.

Continuing. In entreaties. And prayers.

Well. These are. Ways.

That one can become. Dead. You think about.

James 2.26. Famous passage. Faith without works. Is dead.

Being fruitless. Jude 12. Don't get to go to Jude.

Very often either. Jude verse 12. Talking about the men.

Who are false. And who have. Gone the way of Cain.

And for pay. They rush headlong. Into the error of Balaam.

And perish in the rebellion. Of Korah. And I could preach.

A whole sermon on that. These are the men. Who are hidden reefs.

In your love feasts. When they feast. With you without fear.

Caring for themselves. Clouds without water. Carried along by winds.

Autumn trees. Without fruit. Twice dead.

Uprooted. Wild waves of the sea. Casting up their own shame.

Like foam. Remember the wicked. Are like the troubled sea.

When it cannot rest. Whose waters. Cast up mire and dirt.

There is no peace. Sayeth my God. For the wicked.

They are wandering stars. For whom. The black darkness.

Has been reserved. Forever. People say.

Oh. Well. I see.

That sounds. Like a place. Of black darkness.

Darkness. Is outside. The place.

Of feasting. It is dark. By comparison.

Of the presence. Of the lamb. Who is the light.

So. What is the solution? Ephesians. Chapter 5. Verse 14.

We'll talk more about this church. Next time. But.

For our purposes. We've got a week to go. What is our conclusion? For this reason.

It says. Awake. Oh sleeper.

And arise. From the dead. And Christ.

Will shine. On you. We are alive.

We have this day. And whatever days remain to us. Let's.

Wake up. Let's have a change of mind. Let's seize on the grace of God.

That is available to us. Let's close in a word of prayer. Father we thank you for the privilege.

Of studying your word together. We pray that God the Holy Spirit. That sevenfold spirit.

That is ever before your throne. Will illuminate us. Give us insight.

And wisdom. As we live our lives. To please you.

We pray it in Jesus name. Amen. Amen.