

Studies on Hell – Part 9 – The Seven Spirits of God

Hi everyone and welcome to “Grain of Wheat Publishing” and “Studies in Scripture.” My name is Jack Marshall and thank you for joining me today.

This is Part Nine of my series, “Studies on Hell.” Today, we will take a look at the “seven Spirits of God” in Revelation and also consider a retraction concerning the “bottomless pit” in Part Five of this series.

Let’s get started.

In order to understand the messages to the seven churches in Revelation as well as the seven trumpets in this book, we need to understand what is meant by “the seven Spirits of God.” These “seven Spirits” are first mentioned in Revelation, Chapter One, verse four and again in Chapter Four, verse five.

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the **seven Spirits** which are before his throne...

And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. **Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

As these passages show, there are “seven Spirits which are before” the throne of God,” also called “seven lamps of fire” which “were burning before the throne.” Now, let’s look at a portion of verse sixteen of Chapter One where John sees a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And he had in his right hand **seven stars**...

Let’s now look at verse twenty of Revelation, Chapter One, and what Jesus said to John.

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 which you saw are the seven churches.

Hebrews One seven tells us that “angels” are “spirits,” which agrees with our “seven Spirits” before the throne of God. These seven Spirits ARE the “seven stars,” and these “seven stars” ARE “the angels of the seven churches.” So if you will, please put aside the traditional idea of angels for a moment and go with me to Isaiah, Chapter Eleven.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the **Spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear** of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not **judge** by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but **with righteousness he shall judge** the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

These passages speak of the Lord Jesus Christ long before He came to the Jews as recorded in the New Testament. Note how it states that “the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,” and then follows with “the spirit of WISDOM and UNDERSTANDING, the spirit of COUNSEL and MIGHT, the spirit of KNOWLEDGE and the FEAR OF THE LORD.” Isaiah then follows with, “He shall not JUDGE by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with RIGHTEOUSNESS HE SHALL JUDGE.” Friends, the “seven Spirits” before the throne of God ARE the “seven stars” or “angels” of the seven churches, which is not talking about the traditional winged beings with which we are all familiar. Rather, these seven angels represent the seven ASPECTS or CHARACTERISTICS of the ONE “SPIRIT OF THE LORD” found in Isaiah, Chapter

Eleven, which are embodied in Christ Jesus. “Seven” is the great number of “spiritual perfection” or “completeness” denoting the “fullness” of anything with which it is attached. So in our SEVEN Spirits we see the “fullness” of the ONE Spirit of the Lord which incorporates all the characteristics given in Isaiah Eleven.

With what we have considered, let me share an illustration with you that will give clarity to our “seven Spirits” and our “seven churches” of Revelation.

This is an approximate picture of the lampstand which God instructed Moses and Israel to fashion in Exodus, Chapter Twenty-five, verses thirty-one through forty, which was to be placed in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle of Witness. Note that, like our seven stars or angels, and our seven churches, we have SEVEN BRANCHES on the lampstand. Now, please consider the following words from Christ from Matthew, Chapter Five, verses fourteen through sixteen.

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

In John Eight twelve, Jesus said, “I am the LIGHT of the world,” but here he tells us that WE are the light of the world. Immediately after hearing the voice of the Lord “like a trumpet,” John stated, “Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the MIDST of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man.” This shows that it is “Christ IN us” that makes US, His church, the light of the world. So it is that we can use the illustration of the lampstand to represent the seven churches in Asia which, more accurately, represents the ONE BODY OF CHRIST throughout the world. For further understanding, see First Corinthians, Chapter Twelve, verses twelve through thirty-one. There Paul tells us, “For as the body is ONE and has MANY MEMBERS, but all the members of that ONE BODY, being MANY, are ONE BODY, SO ALSO IS CHRIST.” See also Colossians One twenty-seven.

In Isaiah Eleven, note how the “spirit of wisdom and understanding” are connected by the conjunction “AND.” The same is true for the “spirit of counsel and might” and the “spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” Because of this, I’ve placed “wisdom” on the first branch of the lampstand, which, as you can see, connects to the central branch, and then continues over to the seventh branch. I’ve also labeled each branch with the names of the seven churches; Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. When illustrated like this, we see that the “angel” of each church that John was told to “write” to, represents the seven characteristics of the ONE Spirit of God that are present in each church. In other words, when Jesus declares each prophecy, He “writes” FIRST to the “spirit of wisdom” IN and AMONG us, then to the “spirit of counsel,” and so on. Our word “write” suggests ACTION and PERMANENCE. This is in keeping with the New Covenant promise of God that He would “put” His laws into our minds and “WRITE” them in our hearts. See Hebrews Eight, verses ten through thirteen. So, when we consider the context of each of the seven angels and prophecies and understand what their symbolisms mean, then we discover what it is that we, His people, are to “overcome.” For this reason, Jesus ends *each* and *every* prophecy with, “To him who overcomes.”

What is quite enlightening in our illustration is the fact that when you add the first and the seventh branch together, you have the number “eight.” The same is true for the second and sixth branch and the third and fifth branch. In his book, The Biblical Meaning of Numbers from One to Forty, Stephen Jones states that “eight” signifies “an inner room, even the heart itself” and “is the number of NEW BEGINNING.” When we add our three eights together as typified by the left and right branches, we have the number twenty-four, which is the “number of PRIESTHOOD.” In agreement with this, John wrote in Revelation, Chapter One, verses five and six, “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us KINGS and PRIESTS to His God and Father.”

When we add our number twenty-four with the fourth or central branch, we have twenty-eight, which Jones tells us represents “the leading of the Spirit.” Can you see in all of this how the wisdom of God is so beautifully illustrated by what we are considering?

As I shared with you in Part Eight of this series, it is my understanding that the “trumpets” of Revelation are the “unfolding” or “coming to pass” of each of the seven prophecies to the churches. After all, isn’t that what prophecy is, the declaration followed by its fulfillment? I derive this from the following passages from Revelation, Chapters One and Four.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, **and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet** saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...”

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! **And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet**, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this...”

As we see in these passages, the “voice” of Christ is “like a trumpet.” This being true, then the words of Christ to each of the seven churches incorporate the prophecies themselves, while the sounding of each of the seven trumpets symbolize the actual sequence of events as outlined by the words or messages which Jesus declared as our “works” or “deeds.” For this reason, the very first thing Jesus says to each and every church is, “I know your works.”

If my understanding here is correct, then we can rightfully say that for each prophecy, we have each “trumpet.” And if this is true, then each prophecy in their particular order, describes each trumpet and each trumpet helps define each prophecy as well. I also believe that each trumpet began to sound or unfold shortly after the advent of the New Testament Church in the book of Acts, which has continued up through this present time. As a result, and as I’ve stated many times, the SEVENTH and FINAL church and prophecy marks the END OF THE AGE when all that our Lord declared reaches its fullness. As an example of our understanding of “fulfillment,” consider the following from the first prophecy to the church of Ephesus. Jesus said:

I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. **And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars...**

In Matthew Twenty-four, the Lord’s disciples asked Him, “What will be the sign of your coming, and of THE END OF THE AGE?” What was the first thing Jesus said in reply? “Take heed that no one deceives you. For MANY will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ AND WILL DECEIVE MANY.” So the first problem to arise in our prophecy to Ephesus is confirmed by the first statement Jesus made in Matthew Twenty-four which is “false apostles.” Here’s the description of the FIRST TRUMPET from Revelation, Chapter Eight, verse seven.

The first angel sounded, and there followed **hail** and **fire mingled with blood**, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

Beloved, “hail” is cold while “fire” is hot. Sound familiar? It should, for Jesus told Laodicea, “I know your works, that you are neither COLD nor HOT. I could wish you were COLD or HOT.” This being the case, would the “hot” represent those who TESTED the false apostles in Ephesus and found them liars? Absolutely! So this would make the COLD in Ephesus symbolic of the false apostles. Furthermore, our phrase, “Mingled with blood” speaks of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, out of which came His church, the body of Christ. Strong’s defines “mingled” as, “To *mix*,” confirming the fact that both true and false apostles were found in the body of Christ shortly after its inception. Do we not see in this that the first prophecy agrees perfectly with the first trumpet? This would also confirm that each of the seven prophecies in their particular order would agree with each of the seven trumpets in their order.

As for the “third part of trees”? For an understanding of the “third part,” I would encourage you to read Second Kings, Chapter Eleven, verses four through six and Ezekiel, Chapter Five, verses one through five in the King James version of scripture.

Once we understand that the trumpets are the fulfillment of the seven prophecies, we can go to each prophecy and connect it with each church as shown in our illustration. This being the case, it’s time for me to share with you my retraction concerning Part Five of this series where we looked at the fifth trumpet and “the bottomless pit.” Let’s begin with Revelation, Chapter Nine, verse one, from the New American Standard Bible.

And the fifth angel sounded, **and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth**; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.

As we learned in Part Five, the “bottomless pit” is explained by the “days of Noah,” where in Genesis Six five we read, “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**.” The continual evil of man’s imagination and thoughts in this day parallel that of Noah’s day and explains why Jesus, in regard to the end of the age, compared it to “THE DAYS OF NOAH.” See Matthew Twenty-four thirty-seven. See also Proverbs Twenty-seven twenty.

Now, notice that once the fifth angel sounds, John sees “a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth.” This is past tense, indicating that this “star” had already fallen. So where and when did this happen? It’s found in the THIRD TRUMPET or prophecy to Pergamos. In Revelation Eight ten and eleven we read:

And the third angel sounded, **and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp**, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and the name of the star is called **Wormwood**: and the third part of the waters became **wormwood**; and many men died of the waters, because **they were made bitter**.

What do we read? “And there FELL a GREAT STAR FROM HEAVEN, burning as it were a LAMP.” Look at our illustration once more and consider the third church and “star” or “Spirit” seen on the third branch. What “Spirit” is it? It’s the “Spirit of KNOWLEDGE.” This being the case, consider the following from Hosea, Chapter Four.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Do you see it my friends? The “great star” or “angel” of the third church speaks of the “Spirit of KNOWLEDGE,” the third characteristic of the ONE Spirit of the Lord, AND, it is this which is described as FALLING FROM HEAVEN. This coincides with the rebuke recorded in Hosea Four. “MY PEOPLE,” which today is His church, “ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE,” not because it is not available to us, but because we REJECT it! Therefore, the Lord states in no uncertain terms that He REJECTS US from being a “priest” to him.

“Waters” represent that which flows out of our being; see John Seven thirty-eight. When seen as “rivers,” it speaks of the MOVEMENT and PASSING of this KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING from one generation to the next and from one area to another. In this case, it’s KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING of His Word and His kingdom, however, when laced with error due to the SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS and TRADITIONS propagated by FALSE APOSTLES, the “waters” that flow out of us become BITTER.

Further confirmation is found in our phrase, “Burning as it were a LAMP.” Look at what Jesus said in Matthew Six twenty-two and twenty-three:

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, **your whole body will be full of darkness.** **If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

Beloved, the "lamp" or LIGHT "of the body" OF CHRIST or His CHURCH, "is the eye" of true UNDERSTANDING of the divine KNOWLEDGE of our Lord Jesus Christ. See Ephesians One eighteen. However, when our "eye" or UNDERSTANDING is "bad" or "evil," then the "whole body" of Christ becomes "full of darkness." Look at what Jesus said in Luke Eleven fifty-two.

Woe to you lawyers! **For you have taken away the key of knowledge.** You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.

In this context, the "lawyers" speak of the experts in the Mosaic law of Jesus' day. And what does our Lord say? "YOU HAVE TAKEN AWAY THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE." With this in mind, let's go back to our fifth trumpet and the "bottomless pit."

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; **and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.** **And he opened the bottomless pit;** and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; **and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.**

See the "key of the bottomless pit"? Now, let's go to Matthew Sixteen.

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for **flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,** but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**"

The "keys" of the kingdom of heaven. Would these "keys" be KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING? And, when we possess, or fail to possess His true knowledge and understanding, do we not "bind" and "loose" on "earth" and in "heaven"? Didn't the lawyers of Jesus' day, due to their intense spiritual arrogance, "bind" or hinder those who sought for a true understanding of his Word while at the same time "loosed" the DARKNESS because of it? "If your eye," OR UNDERSTANDING is bad, **"your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"** In agreement with this statement, we see this "darkness" illustrated by "the sun and the air" which were "darkened by the smoke of the pit."

In perfect agreement with all of this, Paul wrote in First Corinthians Fifteen thirty-four, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; FOR SOME HAVE NOT THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD: I SPEAK THIS TO YOUR SHAME." He also wrote in Second Corinthians Four, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Finally, Paul wrote in Second Corinthians Ten, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, and bringing into captivity EVERY THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ."

Beloved, the opening of the bottomless pit in the fifth trumpet is due to the "fall" of the "Spirit of knowledge" in the third trumpet which symbolizes our rejection of His true knowledge and understanding. Once we corrupt the knowledge of God because of our own carnal reasonings, then only "Wormwood" or BITTERNESS will flow out of us. For this reason, James wrote, "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My

brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a SPRING send forth FRESH WATER and BITTER from the SAME OPENING?" In Vine's Expository Dictionary, we are told that "Wormwood" is "a plant both bitter and deleterious, and growing in desolate places." Our word "deleterious" means, "Harmful often in a subtle or unexpected way." Isn't this definition a perfect description of DECEPTION?

Brothers and sisters, allow me to emphasize; we are not talking about knowledge of the world here, but the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, and, how many today treat this knowledge with casual disregard as though its importance is really not that necessary? How many today choose instead to embrace the doctrines and commandments of men to the point where they make the Word of God of no effect as the Pharisees and lawyers did in Jesus' day? I believe it's far more than we truly realize. Didn't Jesus tell His disciples that MANY would come IN HIS NAME AND DECEIVE MANY? Yes, He did, and so it should be clear to us that the MANY are deceived.

Beloved, I cannot help but believe that we are in the time of the fifth trumpet, a time when the true knowledge of God has been replaced by a great number of doctrines and commandments of men and blasphemed by the many "labels" we've chosen to embrace. As a result, WE have opened the bottomless pit by taking away the "key of knowledge" from His people. Like the Pharisees and lawyers of Jesus' day, we have placed our TRADITIONS over His TRUTH. The evidence of this is clearly seen in the divisions among us and in the useless rituals and rites which have been accepted by the MANY in this day.

If you will, let me end my presentation with the following from Jeremiah, Chapter Five.

'Hear this now, O foolish people, without understanding, who have eyes and see not, and who have ears and hear not: Do you not fear Me?' says the Lord. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, yet they cannot prevail; though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; they have revolted and departed. They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the Lord our God, who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." **Your iniquities have turned these things away, and your sins have withheld good from you.** 'For among My people are found wicked men; they lie in wait as one who sets snares; they set a trap; they catch men. **As a cage is full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich. They have grown fat, they are sleek;** yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; they do not plead the cause, the cause of the fatherless; yet they prosper, and the right of the needy they do not defend. Shall I not punish *them* for these things?' says the Lord. 'Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?' "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and **My people love to have it so.** But what will you do in the end?"

That's it for today's study, my friends. I sincerely hope you've been enlightened by this presentation and encourage you to leave your comments and questions below. If you like what you hear, be sure to subscribe to my channel and also, feel free to visit my Facebook page at Grain of Wheat Publishing or my website at www.grainofwheatpublishing.org. Thank you so much for joining me today and may God bless you in your walk with Christ.