



LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

Part I - The Head

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Rev. 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev. 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Rev. 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Rev. 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Rev. 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Rev. 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Rev. 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Rev. 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Rev. 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

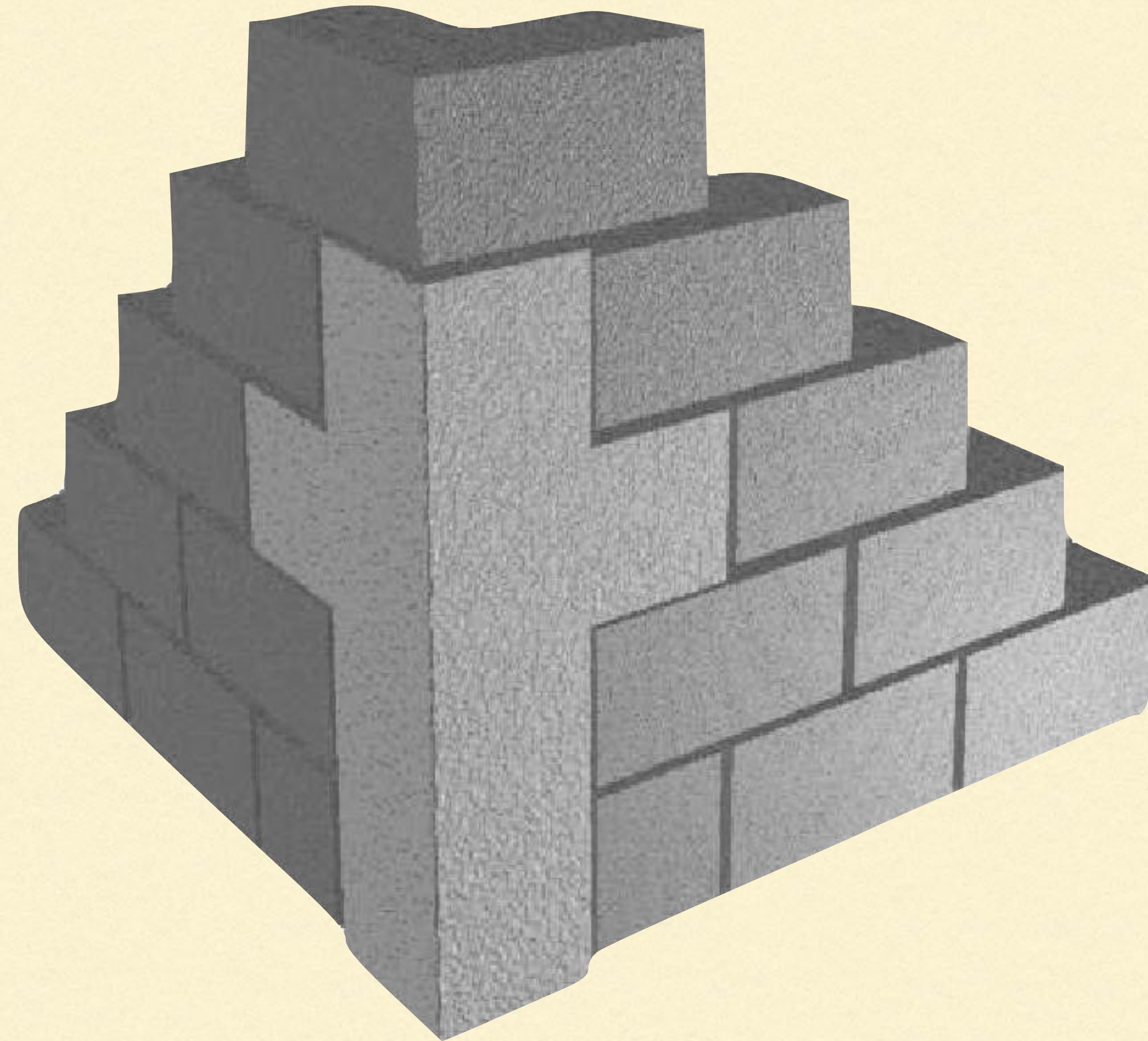
Rev. 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Rev. 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks.

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

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- God established the church by building it upon the solid rock, which is Christ. *Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.*
 - Peter stated that Jesus was the Christ and this is the statement that Christ built the church upon. This declaration acknowledges Christ as the overseer or head of the church. *Matt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 - Because Christ is the head, He is the one to judge the church and its condition. *Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*
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- God appoints men over churches and sees them as angels of churches. No matter the size or type of meeting place, a shepherd is assigned to lead God's people. *Jer. 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*
 - Self-appointed men often pastor with selfish motives and under the control of evil spirits. Their leadership causes problems for its congregants. Bad shepherds produce bad sheep. *Jer. 10:21 For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.*
 - The home of the pastor is relevant in showing you exactly what your home will be like when you follow them. This correlation explains why God desires for pastors to have their home in order. *1 Tim. 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*
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- Though the church may be in a bad condition, the head of the church did not end the churches, instead He judged them and sought their repentance. *1 Pet. 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*
 - Nowadays, many people want to abandon the church because they feel that all churches are bad. But, if Christ didn't give up on the church, then neither should we. *Heb. 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
 - We all need to repent, so we cannot abandon God's plan for fellowship and leadership. If we seek God, we will lead us to where we belong. Our rightful place has exactly what we need, including a good fellowship. *Matt. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
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As the end draws near, more and more will begin to abandon the faith. Many are departing from the faith because they have been hurt by wayward ministries and self-centered pastors. So many pastors are caught up in self-promotion and titles. They want the church to cater to them and their needs contrary to the desires of Christ. Many have forgotten that Jesus gave His life for the church and is the head of it. When Christ is the head, His Spirit draws people to the church. Unfortunately, present-day churches are beginning to look like the world because worldly leadership draws carnal people.

No matter how bad the church looks, we are not the head of it. Christ is the head and He is calling all churches to repentance. Just as He addressed the leaders of the churches of Asia, He is also speaking to the angels of His churches today. Regardless of the church's condition, Christ has never done away with the church or abandoned the church. Consequently, none of us have the right or authority to do away with the church or claim that God has moved on from operating through this institution. This belief is an end time deception that is causing many to lose their way and follow after erroneous doctrine and false teachings. Without a shepherd, the flock scatters. God has called us all to a fellowship and if we are to be ready for the end, we must be aligned with His will to fellowship and worship together as a unified church body.

Jer. 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Jer. 23:2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

Jer. 23:3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

Jer. 23:4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.
