

The Year of the Revelation

~ The Mystery of the Stars and Lampstands ~

I. The Seven Stars Which Are in Jesus' Right Hand -

Who are the angels? (angelos)

A. Sometimes these are heavenly creatures -

Angel to Manoah (Judges 13:3f)

Angel to Zacharias (Luke 1:11)

B. In most cases the "angelos" (or Hebrew "Malaka") are human beings sent as messengers.

(Prophet, Apostle, Evangelist, Missionary, Pastor)

Haggai 1:13; Malachi 1:1; Malachi 3:1

The angels of the churches are the pastors of each church.

The pastor is held responsible by God to deliver His message to His church. The pastor is not the author of the message, but the deliverer. He is entrusted with a communication from Heaven.

The angel (pastor) is:

- (1) God's appointed servant;
- (2) Sent by the Holy Spirit; and
- (3) Called by God to be His spokesman to His people.

II. Interesting Points:

A. Notice that when God speaks to each church He speaks to the angel who is to deliver the Word.

B. Notice that there is only one pastor of each church. It is singular. One person with the responsibility and held accountable by God.

C. Notice that sometimes the message to the church may be positive (a commendation) or it can be difficult (a correction or warning.)

* Pastors would rather preach the good, fun messages; but the pastor must preach what God wants to be said even if it is hard!

A pastor who fails to preach or teach God's message will be held accountable by God. Ultimately the pastor is accountable to God! He (the pastor) will stand before God one day and will answer for what he did!

III. There is a major disconnect in the modern church -

Most members of churches, or people in general, do not understand that pastors are agents whereby God communicates His will or vision.

They basically believe that the preacher preaches a sermon, or explains the Bible or ministers to the hurting and needy, and that the pastor does these things because that it is his "job!"

There is very little thought given to the truth that the pastor is God's servant to speak His Word and to reveal His will to the church.

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Some people may identify the “super preachers” as having some special anointing, but believe that the “everyday” pastor is just “one of us.”

Remember that this system is not set up by man; it was established by God and will be until the church era is over.

Does this mean that the pastor is more holy and better than anyone else? No! It just means it is God’s way!

Throughout Biblical history there have been the constant challenges to God’s plans on leadership.

(1) Moses - He would be a great pastor to have!

Aaron and Miriam - Numbers 12

Korah’s Rebellion - Numbers 16

(2) Jeremiah - I think I could follow that guy!

Thrown into a cistern of mud - Jeremiah 38

It should not be a surprise that we do the same things in our day!

IV. Important Questions -

A. Does God really speak to pastors?

“Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants, the prophets.”

(Amos 3:17)

We better hope He does! Because if He doesn’t, then the Word teaches that God will do nothing!

B. How does a pastor get a Word from God?

I Kings 22:24-25

“The false prophet, Zedekiah, came near and struck Micaiah (the true prophet) on the cheek, and said, ‘How did the Spirit of the Lord pass from me to speak to you?’

And Micaiah said, ‘Behold, you shall see on that day when you enter an inner room to hide yourself.’”

V. Truth to Live By:

A church should not call a pastor because he is a:

- (1) Good preacher or communicator;
- (2) He has a good education or experience;
- (3) He has an attractive, supportive family; or
- (4) His references are excellent.

Rather it should be based on the answers to these questions:

- (1) Do we believe this man is a man of God who will tell us what God says?
- (2) Can I trust him to have a walk with God that enables him to hear God speak to him in the inner room when he hides himself?

If you cannot answer “yes” to these questions, then do not call him as your pastor. Wait until you find the right person to lead you!