

BIBLE STUDY REFERENCE LIST - CHAPTER 7  
The Mystery of the Seven Stars and Seven Candlesticks

## INTRODUCTION

Quick reference Bible studies for the 12 Mysteries are essential for two purposes: defending the gospel against skeptics, and teaching Christians reasons they should hope in the Word of God. This book's length naturally begs for a quick reference guide for Biblical proof "*the mystery of God*"<sup>1</sup> has been finished, or revealed.

Below you'll find Bible study references for **Chapter 7** only. References for remaining chapters are available for free at [www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook](http://www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook). You can also reach me via email, [jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net), or text 330-929-2037.

As Christians, we must verbally defend our faith. Twice Paul says he was set for the defense of the gospel in Philippians 1:7 and 17. In Greek, "defence" means "verbal defence, speech in defence, a reasoned statement or argument." The same Greek word for "defence" is also translated as "answer" in Peter's first epistle: "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"<sup>2</sup> You can be ready to share the truth with any inquirer.

Ministers especially must faithfully test all beliefs. Paul commands us to "*Prove all things*" in 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Prove means "to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals" in the Greek. Since the Bible is our Absolute, all revelations are proven true by the pure words of Scripture alone.

Paul's message to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 is: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Acts 17:11 labels the Bereans as a noble group because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's preaching.

Special thanks to Pastor Craig Booher for his inspiration in compiling quick reference Bible studies.

## 7TH MYSTERY: THE SEVEN STARS AND SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS

**Revelation:** Jesus ordains seven men to declare truth and model holy living during the Times of the Gentiles, or Seven Church Ages.

Rev. 1:20 Jesus declares the stars are angels and the candlesticks are seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea

### Reasons the seven angels are human, male preachers:

Rev. 2:1 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write*—the angel is a human because God doesn't write letters to angels; Jesus wants John to write a letter to a human messenger, or angel

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 10:7

<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 3:15

Mat. 11:10 Jesus calls John the Baptist a messenger; the Hebrew word for “angel” means “messenger”

1 Sam. 29:9, 2 Sam. 19:27 the prophet David is twice called *an angel of God*

Gal. 4:14 Paul says the Galatians received him *an an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus*

Rev. 22:8-9 *the angel* sent to John to show him the prophecies was a fellow servant of his, a prophet

Mark 16:20, Rom. 10:14 men, not angels, are God’s primary tool for sharing His way to salvation

Ex. 15:6, Mat. 26:64, Acts 1:8, 4:33 the stars are in Jesus’ hand, representing His authority, which He shares with men by gifts of the Spirit

Gen. 15:5, Dan. 12:3, John 5:35 believers are likened unto stars and lights; John the Baptist *was a burning and a shining light...for a season*

### **The seven golden candlesticks represent the Times of the Gentiles, or Seven Church Ages:**

Rev. 1:20 Jesus says the candlesticks are seven Gentile cities (no Jewish cities): Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea

Acts 13:44-48, Rom. 11:1-8, 25-29 nearly 50 years prior to Revelation 1:20 being written, God had already blinded the Jews and given the gospel to the Gentiles

Luke 21:24 Jesus calls God’s focus on saving the Gentiles as *the times of the Gentiles*

Mat. 21:33-46 Jesus says He is going to take the kingdom from Israel and give it to the Gentiles

Luke 21:24, Rom. 11:25 Jesus, Paul teach the Times of the Gentiles has an ending point

Rom. 16:16, Eph. 3:21, 5:23-32, Rev. 1:11 Times of the Gentiles can also be called Seven Church Ages because Gentiles are labeled as Jesus’ wife, or “church”

### **Reasons the term “Church Ages” is acceptable:**

Eph. 3:5, Col. 1:26 Paul twice says the Old Testament had ages (Moses’ Old Testament only lasted 1,500 years) and it’s apparent the 2,000 year New Testament does also

Eph. 3:21 Paul speaks of future ages beyond his: *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end*

Hos. 6:1-3 foretells the 2,000 year Gentile Church Ages, saying God will revive Israel on the third day, or after the 2 days, or 2,000 years of dealing with the Gentiles; 1 day = 1,000 years (2 Pet. 3:8)

Acts 2:17 Peter says the Spirit will be poured out in the *last days*, or last 2,000 years before the Great Tribulation and Millennium

2 Tim. 3:1 in the last days, or 2,000 year Gentile Church Ages, perilous times will come

### **The seven golden candlesticks represent the oil, or Spirit of God, in the Seven Church Ages:**

Ex. 25, Zech. 4:1-6 oil represents the Holy Ghost, or Spirit of God

Acts 2:38-39 Peter guaranteed the Spirit, or wine/oil, would be available to every nation, as long as the Lord would call souls to repentance

Rev. 1:13-16, Mat. 28:20, John 14:17 Jesus, the stars (human messengers), and candlesticks (Church Ages) are associated together in unity; He stands in the midst of the candlesticks, or Ages, as He promised He would be with believers always

**The seven letters have three applications:**

Eph. 1:1, Col. 2:1, 4:13-16, 2 Tim. 1:15 first application is Jesus' final call (95 A.D.) to repentance for the literal churches in the seven cities, as all Asian churches had rejected Paul around 67 A.D.

Rev. 1:3, 19 second application is the seven letters were prophetic to the future spiritual conditions of the Seven Church Ages; three historic examples include (1) Rev. 2:10 and Diocletian's 10 year persecution, (2) Rev. 3:8 and the open door missionary age of the 18th and 19th centuries, (3) Rev. 3:16 and the lukewarm condition of the end times, taught by Christ and Paul in Luke 18:8, 2 Thes. 2:3, 2 Tim. 3:1

Rev. 2:4, 8-10 third application is the letters speak to every individual and individual church, as all Christians understand the need to return to their first love (stirring up our minds in 2 Tim. 1:6, 2 Pet. 1:13, 3:1) and overcome persecution in its various forms

**The principle “God and His Ways Are Unchanging”, or Keystone of the Bible, is used to identify the seven human messengers, or stars:**

Heb. 13:7-8 follow those who've spoken the Word to you—Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever

Eccl. 3:14-15 whatever God does, He does forever

Mal. 3:6 *For I am the LORD, I change not*

2 Tim. 2:1-2 Paul tells Timothy to teach *faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*

**3 requirements, based upon Paul's life, for being a star-messenger:**

Gal. 1:8-9, 2:11-14, 1 Cor. 14:36-37, 1 Tim. 4:12-16, 2 Tim. 2:15 first requirement: true to the Word, seen through correcting others, keeping the gospel the same

Acts 14:8-10, 16:18, 20:9-12, 2 Cor. 7:8-12 second requirement: Spirit-power of the written and spoken Word, seen through miracles and repentance-causing letters

1 Cor. 9:2, 15:10, 2 Cor. 11:2, 12:11, Phil. 1:4, 4:1, 1 Thes. 2:19 third requirement: fruits of the ministry, or converts to the faith

**The gaining, losing, and restoring of truth during the Church Ages:**

Acts 3:6, 4:33, 20:27, 2 Pet. 1:3 the saints gained full power of the Spirit and written counsel of God beginning at Pentecost and continuing through Paul's and John's epistles

Daniel 12:4, 9, Joel 2:23-26, Mat. 17:11, 24:14, Acts 3:20-21, Rev. 10:7-11 before Jesus returns to rapture His bride-church, all things must be restored, which proves the power and Word would be partially lost during the Church Ages

Eccl. 3:6, John 12:24 there *is a time to lose*, in this case, power and Word during the Church Ages; a seed must die in order to bring forth more fruit, and the Church Ages had to lose truth in order to bring forth more fruit in the final ages;