

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message Five

**The Revelation and Experience of the Golden Lampstands
and the Great Multitude as the Testimony of Jesus**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 1:1-2, 9-12, 20; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Thes. 5:4-5; Rev. 7:9-17; 21:22; John 16:33;
2 Cor. 12:9; Col. 3:3; Psa. 91:1; 17:8; Isa. 32:1-2; Psa. 23:1-6; Rev. 22:1

I. The testimony of Jesus is the seven golden lampstands—golden (divine) in nature, shining in darkness, and identical with one another—Rev. 1:1-2, 9-20:

- A. The lampstands are golden, signifying the divine nature; everything in the church as the testimony of Jesus must be in the divine nature—2 Pet. 1:4.
- B. The present age is the “nighttime,” and in every avenue of human society there is nothing but darkness; however, every local church is a shining lampstand, illuminating people that they may see Christ—1 Thes. 5:4-5:
 - 1. Today Jesus is walking, acting, moving, living, working, and saving people in the local churches—Rev. 1:13.
 - 2. When people see Christ in the churches, they can realize that everything in the churches is golden and divine—v. 20.
- C. Because we are all one church universally, the local churches throughout the earth should be identical, not in every practical matter but in nature and appearance:
 - 1. All the differences in the local churches in Revelation 2 and 3 are negative—Ephesus lost her first love (2:4), Pergamos is worldly (v. 13), Thyatira is demonic (vv. 20, 24), and Laodicea is lukewarm (3:15).
 - 2. On the positive side, all the local churches are identical because they are golden—1:12.

II. The testimony of Jesus is the great multitude, who have been redeemed “out of every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues” throughout all the generations—Rev. 7:9-17; 21:22; 3:12; cf. Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:14; Gen. 12:2; Rev. 21:3-4; 22:3-5; Isa. 49:10:

- A. The great multitude consists of those who are standing before the throne and before the Lamb with palm branches in their hands—Rev. 7:9:
 - 1. Because the world always afflicts the church, wherever the church is, there will always be a certain amount of persecution—John 16:33.
 - 2. Palm branches signify our victory over tribulation, which we have undergone for the Lord's sake; they are also a sign of satisfaction gained through being watered—Rev. 7:14; cf. John 12:13; Exo. 15:27.
- B. The Lamb-God sitting upon the throne will tabernacle over us, overshadowing us with Himself—Rev. 7:15b; 2 Cor. 12:9:
 - 1. There is one kind of life that is under God's overshadowing—it is a life that is hidden in God—Col. 3:3; Psa. 91:1; 17:8; cf. 36:7-9; 57:1; Eph. 6:17.
 - 2. Christ as Jehovah and also as man is the King who is supplying, caring for, and covering God's people; He is the King for ruling and a man who is like a refuge from the wind and a covering from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, and like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land—Isa. 32:1-2.
- C. The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd us and guide us to springs of waters of life—Rev. 7:17a:
 - 1. Shepherding includes feeding; under the shepherding of Christ, “I will lack nothing”—Psa. 23:1.

EUROPEAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE—MAŁE CICHE

2. We can never improve ourselves, and we need a shepherd to feed us all the time; He feeds the lambs with His experience as the Lamb of God, who is on the throne of God in and for the house of God—vv. 2-6; Rev. 22:1.
- D. All God's redeemed ones eventually will be raptured to the throne of God and will stand there enjoying God's overshadowing and the Lamb's shepherding; this is our destiny.

FOCUS: *We need to be impressed with the vision and experience of the golden lampstands as the testimony of Jesus who are golden in nature, shining in the darkness and identical with one another. This must be our experience in this dark age as part of the great heritage of the Lord's lovers who are the testimony of Jesus, His great multitude, who stand for the Lord in the midst of persecution and tribulation and are victorious in living a life to enjoy the Lord's presence, His overshadowing and shepherding, and springs of waters of life.*