

The Son of Man and the Seven Churches

Rabbi Glenn Harris - Bloomfield Hills Institute of Theological Studies – Fall/Winter 2010

And in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like wool, like snow...

Description of Messiah	Corresponding church	What it has in its favor	What He holds against it
<i>In His right hand He held seven stars</i>	Ephesus (2:1-7)	good deeds, perseverance, intolerant of evil, discerning	had left their first love
<i>The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life</i>	Smyrna (2:8-11)	steadfastness in the face of hostility from synagogue	forewarned of persecution/martyrdom; exhortation to endure to the end
<i>out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword</i>	Pergamum (2:12-17)	steadfast to confess Yeshua despite Antipas' martyrdom	tolerated false teachers who advocated lawlessness, immorality
<i>His eyes were like a flame of fire; His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace</i>	Thyatira (2:18-29)	good deeds, love, faith, service, perseverance, increasing in good deeds	tolerating a woman who falsely claims to be a prophetess who advocates lawlessness, immorality (adultery); some embracing false teaching called 'deep things of satan'
<i>He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars</i>	Sardis (3:1-6)	reputation, notoriety but little else; a few faithful	dead in faith, not growing, lacking in good deeds – asleep!
<i>He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens/shuts and no one can shut/open</i>	Philadelphia (3:7-13)	a little power, have kept His word, persevering in their confession	nothing – only promise of vindication, victory and eternal reward for those who endure to the end
<i>The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Origin of the Creation of God</i>	Laodicea (3:14-22)	nothing - only boasting	lukewarm; boasting in wealth yet spiritually blind, naked, poor, wretched

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man!