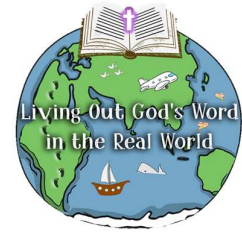


**PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH**  
*LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE*



**Sermon Date: 23/06/2019**

**Text/s: Revelation 1:10-18**

**Title: Behold the King!**

**Preacher: Priscilla Solomon**

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

**READ (5 mins)**

(Read the Bible text/s, quietly or aloud)

**REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text/s)

1. Read verses 10 to 12. John saw the seven golden lampstands and according to v20, they represented the seven churches. Why are the lampstands used to symbolise the churches? (cf. Zechariah 4:2, Luke 8:16)

**Additional notes:**

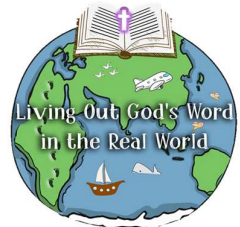
The image has its background in Zechariah 4:2 and is used to represent Israel, specifically the righteous gathered from all generations at the end time. The lampstand, in the Old Testament (OT), is an item in the tabernacle/Temple. The light emanated from the lamp represents God's presence. Just as the lamp in Zechariah represented God's presence/Spirit which empowered Israel to finish the Temple rebuilding, the Church, the new Israel, is to draw power from the Spirit in its drive to stand against the world's opposition. To answer the question above, consider the function of the lampstands.

2. Read verses 13 to 16. In the Christophany, the Son of Man was revealed as the divine end-time King who would rule and judge. How is this both sobering yet encouraging for the churches past and present?

**Additional notes:**

The vision of Christ has the following OT allusions:

- Son of man – Drawn from Daniel 7:9-14, 10:5-6. The portrayal of Christ is that of a kingly and priestly figure. Part of Christ's priestly role is to tend to the lampstands. Whilst priests would remove the wick and old oil, refill or relight the lamps, Christ



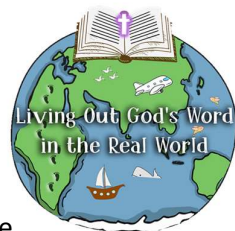
tends the ecclesial lampstands by commending, correcting, exhorting and warning in order to secure their fitness as witnesses.

- Long robe and sash – kingly and possibly priestly attire
- Hairs were white, like wool, like snow – cf. Daniel 7:9, characteristics of the judicial figure of the Ancient of Days are used on Christ which suggests his role as end-time divine judge.
- Eyes like flame of fire – cf. Daniel 10:6, a metaphor of judgment
- Feet like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace – cf. Daniel 10:6, suggests moral purity and Christ's followers must reflect this purity.
- Voice like roar of many waters – cf. Daniel 10:6, Ezekiel 43:2, God's voice
- Seven stars – The stars are the angels of the churches (v20). The meaning of angel in Greek is messenger/proclaimer and it could likely refer to the priestly role of the bishop/pastor of the church, i.e. the leadership.
- Sharp two-edged sword from mouth – cf. Isaiah 11:4, 49:2, as end-time judge, Christ will battle evil nations and even judge those among the churches who compromise their faith.
- Face like sun shining in full strength – cf. Daniel 10:6

**Significance:**

Many visions and prophecies in the OT are lumped together to present to John/us the vision of Christ. Daniel is mostly used in the Christophany, and this is important because it shows us who Christ is and what He can do among the kingdoms of this world. Christ's holding of the stars in his hand and walking among the lampstands demonstrate his sovereign oversight of the churches and presence. His constant presence means he always knows their spiritual condition which results either in blessing or judgment.

3. Read verses 17 to 18. The Son of Man exhorted John to fear not. List the credentials in vv17-18 that form the basis of His exhortation. Which credential is most significant to you personally? Explain.



### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. Which of these seven churches most reflect our community as PMC or Life Group? What can we do to make a transformative and decisive change that will impact the future of believers in our community?

**Additional notes:**

- Ephesus – had very sound doctrines but forgot its first love, i.e. rigid and loveless
- Smyrna – persecuted (no rebuke)
- Pergamum – tempted to commit idolatry and compromise because they could not forgo the prestige and privileges of the trade guilds
- Thyatira – tempted to compromise because of economic considerations
- Sardis – sleeping church, false reputation
- Philadelphia – had little strength (no rebuke)
- Laodicea – self-satisfied, lukewarm

2. What is your greatest challenge in growing to be like Christ? Just to name some: legalism, fearfulness because of persecution, apathy, lethargy, vulnerability to succumb to worldly pressures etc.? Share with the group and pray for one another that we will behold the King and be overcomers because of who He is and He is coming back.

### **REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)