

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

(revised 10/13/2024)

Week 52: Jesus Has Your Back! - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. Places the number seven is used in Revelation:

- seven churches (chapters 2-3)
- seven seals (chapters 6-7)
- seven trumpets (chapters 8-11)
- seven signs (chapters 12-15)
- seven bowls (chapters 16-18)
- seven last things (chapters 19-22)

The number seven in Hebrew symbolizes completeness or wholeness.

The four visions in Revelation:

- Vision of the Son of man among the seven churches (chapters 1-3)
- Vision of the scroll with seven seals, trumpets, signs and bowls (chapters 4:1-19:100)
- Vision of the return of Christ and the consummation of this age (chapters 19:11-20:15)
- Vision of the new heaven and earth (chapters 21-22)

2. John records what he sees in a vision as Christ reveals it to him. It is highly symbolic, prophetic and apocryphal. John never quotes Old Testament directly but alludes to Old Testament quotes over 100 times. It is closely tied to Old Testament books such as Zechariah, Daniel and Ezekiel. It is the only book where the reader is promised a blessing from God if they read it. It emphasizes more than any other New Testament book the hope we all should have in Jesus' return. It provides a picture of our future existence with Jesus in heaven.

3. The Greek word for revelation is "*apokalypsis*" which means to expose in full view what has been previously veiled. Occurring only once, here, in Johannine writings, the following words reveal what soon (defined as immanent in eschatological sense) must take place. Jesus here is the mediator between God the Father and John. A servant angel is employed to reveal both the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Finally, those who read this revelation are assured to be blessed.

4. The Trinity is pronounced here: Grace and peace to you from Him who is, was and who is to come (God the Father) ...From the seven spirits before His throne (God the Holy Spirit)... From Jesus Christ (God the Son). It is Christ that has made you priests to serve God and He is still in control of your circumstances. Notice the literary bookends "who was, is and is to come (1:1 and 1:8) encompassing the main point (here and in the book) of Jesus' return (1:7).

5. John sees a strikingly similar vision that Daniel and Ezekiel saw when they encountered Jesus (Daniel 7 & 10, Ezekiel 1). John is stricken with fear and trembling and bows before the Lord to pay homage to his King. John's Christology is based upon Jesus' death, burial and resurrection power which he emphasizes by writing Jesus has the power (the keys) over death and hell (hades). Jesus interprets the semblance of the stars (church angels) and lampstands (churches). What follows are direct words from Jesus.

6. Ephesus was the city that housed the Temple to the Great Artemas, the goddess of fertility. A very “spiritual” city where thousands of prostitute priestesses were employed and where various cult practices were performed. Here was where Paul was almost mobbed (Acts 19). The church may have loved Jesus but it seemed their love for each other (Reference Ephesians 1:15) had waned. It stands to reason that when one loses their love for Christ what follows is their lack of love for others.

7. “The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands” reveals who Jesus is and that He resides among the churches. “The First and Last” reveals Christ’s eternal nature. “The One who has the sharp, two-edged sword” shows Christ employing His Word to combat heresy. “The Son of God, the One whose eyes are like a fiery flame, and whose feet are like fine bronze” alludes to Jesus’ penetrating discernment of false teachings. “The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God’s creation” reveals Christ’s validity as God, both human and divine. Reference 2 Corinthians 1:20.

8. Smyrna was the birthplace of Homer. Smyrna was an important economic seaport bustling in the fields of science and medicine. Smyrna was the center of Emperor worship where all Roman citizens were expected to burn incense to the emperor and proclaim “Caesar is Lord.” Christians were resisting such rituals and as a consequence were imprisoned, some being tortured and killed. Jews, at the hand of Satan, incited the Romans to persecute Christians. John reassures believers to stand firm in their faith, God is in control over Satan’s acts.

9. Christ demands His followers to give Him their all, nothing less. Lukewarm is an expression revealing the Laodiceans were not totally committed to the truth of the gospel. They may have been Christians in their profession, but not in ACTION. They were self-satisfying, complacent and indifferent in their faith, mere babes in Christ. Often believers in today’s world are so overwhelmed with the world they become like the Laodiceans and are ineffective for the Kingdom of God.

Additional Questions:

1. There are basically four main views of the end times stemming from the prophetic books of the Old Testament, Matthew, 1&2 Thessalonians and Revelation. It is imperative that whatever view you take that you not destroy friendships within the church. Remember, Jesus, Himself, did not know the day or hour of His return (Matthew 24:36).

A good comparative chart can be found at: <https://www.reformedreader.org/mchart.htm>

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

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4. The final destination for Satan, the beast and the false prophet mentioned in Revelation is the eternal lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). Along with them, death and Hades and those who refused to believe in Christ will join them in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14, 15).

