

God's Greeting: I Will Help You!

Revelation 1:4-5a

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- Revelation 1:4-5a is God's letter to seven historical churches in Asia Minor (v.4). What does it communicate?
- What is the gift of God's grace and peace? Each person of the Godhead brings us the comfort of grace and peace.
- Good gifts for Christians in tribulation (1:9) and for us (Rom.15:4).

The Comfort of God the Father

1. Why the "God the Father" language?
2. Exodus 3:12-14.
3. God the Father addresses the seven churches and us: Grace & Peace!

The Comfort of God the Holy Spirit

1. Why do you think John refers to "the seven spirits" instead of the Holy Spirit?
2. "Seven" is used to emphasize the function of the Spirit.
3. Letting scripture interpret scripture:
 - Zech.4:1-7
 - "seven" represents fullness or completeness: seven days, churches, lampstands, stars, horns and eyes
4. Seven spirits are before the throne, not on the throne for grace and peace to be extended.
5. Review how we obtained an accurate understanding of Rev. 1:4b about "seven spirits."

1. Main Message	Discern God's primary intention for the text—his main message?
2. Clearest Citation	Recognize God seeks to clarify not confuse. Where does God most clearly say his main message? Let his clear scripture interpret what seems to be obscure scripture.
3. Whole Wisdom	Get God's whole message on a matter→ God's revelation is progressive—a little at a time.
4. Style Situation	Observe God's style of language for the message being presented. Particular words are chosen for a purpose.
5. Assembly Accountability	Use God's church for accountability and understanding. Who in God's church needs to hear and evaluate our interpretation?
6. Transforming Truth	Seek God's transformation over information. How would God want to change us with this text?

6. Zerubbabel and believers struggle but God gives grace and peace by his Spirit.
 - He is the **ever-present Helper (John 14:16)**. How wonderful to not be alone or without help when hurting.
 - He is the **Spirit of truth** the world does not possess and cannot receive (**John 14:17**). How great it is to avoid deception when we are hurting.
 - He is our **constant teacher and reminder** of all Jesus has said (**John 14:26**).
 - He is our **helper in witnessing** when wanting most not to cause shame to the cause of Christ (**John 15:26**).
 - He is the **revealer of things to come (John 16:13)**.
 - He is our **freedom from addictions to live as children of God (Rom. 8:12-17)**.
 - **He is called "the seven Spirits"** to denote his absolute completeness and perfection in ministering the grace and peace of God to his people.

The Comfort of God the Son

1. Christ is described as " faithful witness."
2. Christ is described as " first-born from the dead."
3. Christ is described as " ruler of the kings on earth."