

# WCCC 2023

## Brother Dana Congdon

### Keep the word of My patience (2)

We know in the history among God's people that sometimes men call meetings together because they have certain ambitions and desires. But then there are times of gathering together, where men called by faith, because there is some burden they want to share. But yet there is a third kind of convocation and conference. It is where our eternal God predestines a gathering at an important time.

When we study the history of the church in recovery, you will find that there were times of these convening of God's people that changed the history of the church. Now we realize the great turbulence we have had in these past few years with the pandemic and all that is related. I remember coming to some WCCCs where we had some 1,200 people in attendance. And like the Lord said to Gideon,, "these are too many", and He shook them up.

But if this is a time for the 300 to come together for God to do something to bring in Christ's return, then it is no mystery that the Word that would go forth would be "hold fast, I am coming quickly".

I remember the first time I heard our dear brother Christian Chen explain about the Lord's coming quickly. Because many translations, even in English, read "I am coming soon". But the word "coming quickly" means that when He comes, He comes quickly. We will be caught, I am sure, with our pajamas on. Nobody will know if it is morning or evening, but we have been waiting 2,000 years.

Then God, in His predestined purpose, gathered some people together and says, "now, can I tell you again, hold fast, I am coming."

I confess to you that many Christians may talk the talk about the "soon coming", but it is not an item on their agenda. I wonder if the Lord hasn't found some who really have that spirit of rapture in their hearts.

Our dear brother Godwin just shared at the end of his message last night: after all the blessings of his life and his family, and all that has transpired, there was some in later life, holy desire that rises up in our lives and says "I want more than this. Maranatha! Come!". When we see our

children and grandchildren, we just get a little foretaste of what must be coming when our Lord establishes His kingdom of righteousness on this earth.

And so we realize that context is so important for the Word of God to be shared. Now what do I mean by that? The Spirit, in a mysterious way, has to prepare our hearts to hear what He wants to say. If I might put it this way, we are not always ready, or spiritually prepared, to hear something. But then the Holy Spirit, the great Engineer of our lives, arranges circumstances to awaken our inner man. Because the Word of God must have spiritual context to change logos into rhema. And the many times you have heard the logos of something, one day the Spirit opens your understanding, and it becomes rhema for you.

Now you remember when John the Baptist came on the scene preaching repentance because the kingdom of God was at hand. There were some people whose hearts had been prepared to hear that. John the Baptist's words were like seeds falling by the pathway for the Pharisees, because their hearts were not prepared to hear. But many of God's children came from north, south, east and west into the desert to hear this man because their hearts were prepared for the coming of the Messiah.

So John may have spoken in the wilderness. He spoke to hearts ready to hear. This is the challenge of our lives, isn't it? To have our hearts in a context ready to hear what the Spirit says to the church.

I know we probably have 600 people here, 450 of them are probably preachers. So I think you can understand this: have you ever been asked to go and speak somewhere, and you go there, and something special happens? Now perhaps you are going to speak a message you have spoken before. You have to blow the dust off your outline when you speak there. But when you get there, there is such a sense of spiritual, atmospheric anticipation that it is as if streams of living water come out with rhema among the people and they are deeply moved. Of course, afterwards as a preacher, you mark a heart on that message, and you go and share it in another place. And as you speak it is \*cough cough\* dust. Dead.

You know that story of Jonathan Edwards, the famous preacher who was part of the first awakening in the United States when it was still a colony. Jonathan Edwards was a pastor in Connecticut. One day he wrote a sermon out. Back in those days they wrote everything out. The sermon's title was "Sinners in the hand of an angry God".

He can't see well, so he had a candle right over his shoulder, and his paper right over his face like this. And he read his message word for word. He couldn't even see the people. But the people started to fall out of the pews. They cried out for repentance, and this awakening in the colonies began.

Brother Edwards confesses that he went to other places and spoke that same message with no response at all. It is context. Are we ready? That is why we need to hold fast.

Now I mentioned yesterday that the basis of our holding fast is the better covenant we have through the blood of Jesus Christ. Guaranteed. God takes us by His hand and holds us fast, and no one can snatch you out of the Father's hand. As it was spoken in Jeremiah, "I will be their God."

But that is His side of the new covenant. Our side of the new covenant is "and we shall be Your people". How does that happen? How strong is your grip?

Occasionally a brother comes up to shake my hand and he almost crushes it. And sometimes someone shakes my hand like a fish. What kind of grasp do you have of the Lord? How strong in the faith? How deep is your commitment? How thorough is your consecration? You can't hang on to the Lord. He flies. How can you hold on to Him?

So there is a new covenant secret which most Christians today don't know: Christ in you holds God.

Many times in the past, when I was under 100 years I used to speak to the young people. And many young people who were saved when they were 12 years old, now 16, are in semi-rebellion. Some of them get into sufficient trouble that the parent brings them to me for correction. And after they tell me all the legitimate reasons that their parents are no good, and the church is no good, I break through a lot of the red tape by saying two things:

I say with all of these things, the turmoil of your soul, Jesus loves you, this I know? And they say, "yes I know".

My second statement is, "I know in your heart that you love Jesus, and you don't want to let Him go."

Because these kids have been brought up in a godly home, they just break down and cry. Because down deep under the surface of the raging storm of their soul, there is a spirit in whom Christ dwells, and He is loved by us. The transforming moment in many of our lives; was that not the moment we discovered Christ in us, loving us? There came a moment in our life when the Lord said, "ok you can go", and we said, "where else can we go? You have the true love that we need."

I hope that if you are here today as a teenager, you will discover how much you love Jesus in your spirit. You see, because it is based on communion, the fact that you are united in Christ. There has been a marriage in your spirit that will eventually express itself through your soul and

through your body. So God holds fast of us, and Christ in us holds fast of God. It is on that basis we can say “Hold fast”. This is the mystery of our gospel.

We better get to some scripture. Let us turn to Revelation. Right at the beginning in chapter 1, verses 1-3. Here we find the first “hold fast” in Revelation.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and **holds fast** to those things which are written in it; for the time is near.  
Revelation 1:1-3

In 2:13 we see “holds fast” mentioned once again. This is to the church in Pergamum.

“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.  
Revelation 2:13

Then down in 2:25, the church in Thyatira is plagued by a Jezebel,

But hold fast what you have till I come.  
Revelations 2:25

And then in 3:11, to the church in Philadelphia, our theme verse,

Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.  
Revelation 3:11

As I have said before, throughout the scripture, including the Old Testament, the command to hold fast came at a time of epic change. Moses stood on the banks of the Jordan river and said, “brothers and sisters, I can’t go there with you. But I tell you to hold fast to Jehovah. You can’t get into the Promised Land by holding fast to me.” So they went through and took the Promised Land because the angel of Jehovah marched through the land.

Then Joshua got to the place where he was about to die. Once again we read last time, he said, “Choose this day whom you will serve. Hold fast to Jehovah.” Because now, they already had their inheritance. The difficult part was over. All you have to do is hold fast to the Lord, dwell in unity as one Israel and enjoy your inheritance.

Of course we find in the book of Judges, they couldn't hold fast at all. But God still in major moments steps up and says "it is time to hold fast because we are going through a transition."

I wonder when I look at many of you because I know that your family at some point went through a great transition coming here to the US. I can't imagine what that is like, to leave all behind and come here. I suppose in some of your families there is a testimony of suffering, of starting all over again, and the necessity of holding fast to the Lord as your only possession as you came to this country.

Of course we know that there were other precious brothers and sisters who knew the Lord, came here to the States, and left everything for the world. A great challenge of this present age is whether you can hold on to the Lord in the midst of prosperity. It is well known that we cannot serve God and Mammon. But praise God, that some of your moms and dads and grandparents held fast to the Lord in a great time of transition.

My wife and I rent an apartment on East 20th Street in Manhattan. We always felt especially safe because right next door to us is a police academy. We have never had any trouble on our street. Until recently. Our police academy is no more a police academy. They moved out the police, and they moved in 280 migrants. During hot days, there is no air conditioning at the police academy. They sleep in a gymnasium. So many of these migrants are out on our streets every day, smoking. They are on their phones, calling home to Ecuador or here and there. There are a number of moms with little children. They are in great transition. We wonder what will happen. Some of them left everything.

So I was happy the other day to see, as I was walking down the street, a Spanish speaking evangelist preaching to everybody up and down the block. Praise God. Maybe some of them will hold fast to the Lord Jesus while they are in transition.

Now we have been speaking about John's ministry to recover our grasp. We spoke about how John knew a Jesus that was so big that he wrote a gospel that was big. As a matter of fact, John at the end of the first century, became a great transition saint, opened the gospel up to the Greek-speaking world. We know he also was preaching out of a heart that was burdened for the church to recover Christ Jesus in the middle of the church.

So we mentioned last time that he pictured Jesus as the glory of God coming down in the new tabernacle here on earth, and this was the church. This gospel would be an antidote for those with an ear to hear that God was saying, "the church is not an institution, the church is the living Christ in your midst!" Because John could remember the largeness at the beginning of the church.

Now in your Christian life, if you are pursuing the Lord, do you remember times when the Lord opened up your eyes to His greatness? I suppose I have been a Christian for about ten years

when one time I was preparing to do a Bible study. I read the book of Colossians, and I saw a Christ that was so huge - the Owner and Creator of the cosmos - that it enlarged my little spirit in terms of this vision.

And perhaps God willing, we will mention next time, that the Word of God is the key to your heavenly vision. But do you remember when the Lord gave you larger moments in your own Christian life? Perhaps some of you came into a time when you were immersed in the Holy Spirit, and you saw miracles and things you have never seen before. Or that time when you were in a church and suddenly saw that you were in Christ, the living organism. Perhaps there was a time, when you in your efforts to preach the gospel, when heaven came down and glory filled our souls, and many were saved. Or some time of great need in the church, and you prayed, and God did a miracle.

These moments are to open up our spirit to see the largeness of Christ. The more the church becomes man-handled and man-squeezed, the smaller Christ gets. The church was never to increase so that Christ could decrease. And this is what John wanted the saints to see when they read the gospel of John. He is the "I am" and fills in whatever needs life.

Now we are speaking of the church, we are speaking of corporate matters. Our dear brothers are speaking about the individual aspect of His purpose and vision. But I just pray that at some moment, in your brief history, you actually encounter life in a church being recovered by the Holy Spirit.

When you read down the history of the church, whether it was the Morovians, the Quakers, the Hussites, something wonderful happens when the Lord was able to recover the ground of the church in some measure among them.

I mentioned 5 things that are noted in many of these recovery churches:

1. When they met together, they sensed the Lord in their presence. Somehow, not always in great moments, but you could sense the Lord moving among them, through them, and over them.

Brothers and sisters, I am sure I am preaching to the choir on this matter, but there are so many churches where you can't even touch the life of the Lord. And then there are some churches getting all worked up in their soul, but where is the Lord? Some churches love their preachers. This guy is so hip, this guy is so cool! Young people love him!

But you show me a church in reality and I show you a church where people outside come in and say, as 1 Corinthians 14, "the Lord is in their midst". And that is because of the second thing they notice.

2. The Lord's throne is somehow over the church. They seem to find spiritual direction through the Lord. They have a unique prayer meeting. That's where the throne room is discovered. Where is the throne room in your church? Sunday morning worship? Tuesday night Bible study? The meal after the meeting on Sunday?

The throne room is found in your prayer meeting. It is a wonderful thing when there is a prayer meeting where prayers go up and answers come down. But somebody has got to take the roof off that prayer meeting, otherwise prayers go up and they get hot on the ceiling.

But here is this little group of people, and for some reason God is guiding them, and people outside are asking "what are they doing?" Maybe they gathered together like the Quakers, and nobody says "let's sing this hymn, or let's do this thing", and someone starts singing, or someone starts praying, or someone shares a scripture, but it is all directed by some unseen throne.

3. There is a coordination of ministry in the midst. Because we have one brother who shares precious things from the Word of God. And another brother who shares precious things of personal experience in the Lord. It is a complementary ministry. Who arranges for apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers? In such a group you don't need to import them. The Lord raises them up.
4. Whatever their preaching and teaching is, whether sublime ministry or simple speaking, there is a prophetic element in what is spoken. Some little fellowship outside of Seattle somewhere, they are speaking and burdened about praying for a particular situation. And as they are having lunch with somebody from New Jersey here at the conference, they discover that in New Jersey, they are praying for the very same burden.

You see, the church cannot be in recovery unless there is a prophetic element to the Word of God that is spoken in their midst, because the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Christ.

5. The disproportionate amount of opposition and conflict and persecution of the group. This group in Philadelphia is so small. They don't have any great ministers or a big presence. Why is the enemy standing in the synagogue of Satan to try to wipe them out? It is ridiculously disproportionate to the size of what is going on.

But those people seeking to live in the reality, in the spirit and the truth of recovery are prone to be found out by Satan and the resistance.

So when we come to the book of Revelation, we see seven churches, and most of them are in persecution, opposition and trouble. And so as we look at the matter in the book of Revelation

this morning, we need to stop and see the tremendous scope of what is being revealed to John in this revelation.

Now all of you know that in Revelation 2 and 3, there are 7 churches indicative of all the churches existing in the world. And some of them are obviously losing their grip, not able to hold fast to the things they have been given.

Of course we know that in 5 of these churches, the Lord Jesus Himself says “repent”. I think we should be humbled with the realization that probably all 7 of these churches existing then in Asia Minor are much more spiritual and lively than our churches.

I think it is an awfully big boast for us to say we are the church in Philadelphia, so we don’t need to repent. I remind you that back then in 90 A.D. a church like Thyatira eventually became like the Catholic church was doing more deeds and more good works and more for the Lord than our groups assembled here have ever done.

But our Lord loves the church so much He will not let these churches get away with even the smallest detection of the loss of the life of Christ in their midst.

We must be especially humbled by the fact that much of our preaching even this weekend has to do with the glorious heavenly vision that was seen among the Ephesians. How could it be, within 30 years, that the Ephesians had left their first love? How long has the church you’re going to be together?

Remember, Ephesus and Laodicia, they had no buildings, they had no programs, they had no professional ministries, but people were still getting saved. They were still working for the Lord. The testimony of Jesus was still among them.

Ephesians. They left me. They left their first love.

Or take the church of Pergamum. The Lord looks out and says, “Repent! Why would you hold fast to teaching instead of holding fast to me as the Head? Where do you get the idea that I want Christians to be holding fast to doctrines?” I am a Calvinist! I am a Pentacostal! Where did we get that?

Paul said one thing: hold fast to the Head. That is where you will get truth to live. But our minds so soaked with the knowledge from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, with earthly knowledge, soon fall away from holding fast to the Head, and hold fast to all kinds of doctrines.

What can we say about Thyatira holding fast to Jezebel and the deep teachings of Satan? Or the church at Sardis holding fast to its reputation and its name while they were asleep spiritually? Or



Laodicea that had the best church thing going that you could ever imagine, but they were blind, poor, naked in spirit.

So God sends a message to John to recover the church to its first love. If we look again at those first 3 verses in the book of Revelation, you notice the special scope of this book.

The first thing we notice is this: is this a letter? No. It is a gospel? No. It is a prophecy. The book of Revelation is an unveiling. Look at verse 3:

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy,  
Revelations 1:3

This is an unveiling. And notice secondly that this unveiling is given to John because he and his fellow bondservants need this heavenly vision. Specifically, all 22 chapters of the book of Revelation is one unveiling of Jesus Christ as He now is in heaven.

But you notice that it says that this revelation was communicated to the Lord's bondservants. As we began, we spoke on the necessity of context because I really believe in one sense that only the Lord's bondservants can understand this unveiling.

Now let me make it clear that by bondservants we are not talking about full-time workers. We are talking about those captured servants, captured of love. You need a vision in order to hold fast in the last days.

Now we know that many Christians read this book and all they see is nightmares. They see woes and bowls, and hell and beasts. I remember back in the Jesus movement days in 1973, I lived right next to Stony Brook University in New York. They had a dormitory all filled with witches and warlocks. And the witches and warlocks invited me to a Bible study so I could talk about the beasts and hell and other stuff.

But now most Christians read Revelations one time every 12 years. The unveiling of Jesus is not what they see at all. They see all the background music but they don't see the Lord Jesus. And then we have all kinds of Bible scholars who make a career of studying end time things, and they interpret these things. They make predictions. 20 reasons why Jesus is coming back in 2023.

But it is the bondservants that need this unveiling. So God sent a revelation of Jesus Christ as He now exists. Now what more did John need to see? He already knew Him as logos, as I am, as the Lamb of God, the glorious Son of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and inwardly, He knew the Lord as comforter, as His light, as His righteousness, as His beloved, as His life.

John, you are ready to go home. What more can you possibly see? But the Lord wants to show His bondservants so much more. He can only show them as much as they can handle. Believe me, the revelation of Jesus Christ as a book is toned down for human consumption. Whatever pictures, whatever symbols, whatever reality is spoken about in the book of Revelation, the reality of it is greater than the picture.

Now John was in his 80s, as old as our senior brother Godwin. I am much younger than him, I'm 79. It had been more than 60 years since he saw Jesus going up in the cloud. He loved Jesus so much. I am sure his prayer was "Jesus, come back". In a sense he lost his life when Jesus went up in the cloud. But it allowed him to discover the Christ within, the abiding in the vine. And through the years he sensed the Lord's anointing, sometimes the Lord's voice would speak to him, so he continued to know the Lord.

But the Lord says, "I want to have a reunion with my beloved bondservants. It has been 60 years. I want to meet with my beloved again." So we all know that story in Revelation 1. He is caught up in the spirit on the Lord's day, praying for the churches in Asia Minor. Like the crackling of a trumpet he heard a voice.

"John, write to the seven churches! To Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatire, to Sardis, to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." He heard the loud trumpet sound. Something oddly, recognizing a voice from the past. And he turned around. And he saw Jesus. Look at what He looks like now. Deeply into the spirit of John came the sight of His hands, the sight of His hair, the sight of His eyes and His mouth. The sight of His clothing. Everything was glorious beyond anything he ever imagined. He knew that the Father would glorify the Son at His right hand, but He would never imagine the beauty of the glory of the Lamb of God.

This is what Jesus looks like now. I am sure physically, John's heart must have had a rest. He was slain by glory. The most beautiful One he had ever seen. He could go through exile at Patmos, that is nothing. He has seen Him. "I saw Him, I saw Him!" He couldn't even tell the other saints, he was on exile. "I saw Him! I saw Him!" And that is enough to see the Lord.

What does a bondservant in a time of trouble want to see more than anything else? A solution to the problem, a revival to the church? What does he want to see more than anything else? If you can answer anything else than "I want to see my Jesus", you are not a bondservant.

But then the Lord says to John, "stand up. You're alive again. I want to encourage you to hold fast, John. You and the bondservants. So I want to show you God's eternal purpose from heaven's point of view."

What an amazing vision! This is what Jesus is doing in heaven right now. Now John understood a principle because he had been walking with the Lord all these years. Dear saints, I hope that you have grasped this principle, because it is the key to seeing God's eternal purpose. That

everything that is happening on earth in relation to God's kingdom, there is a corresponding heavenly reality.

Probably the prophet who wrote the book of Hebrews wrote it because he saw a revelation. He saw the glorious High Priest Jesus now in heaven interceding and ministering in the heavenly tabernacle, and he saw that it is corresponding to that on earth in the church.

The church was the shadow, but the reality was up there. Someone is saved down here, but it had to do with something up in heaven that was being done too. To everything in God's kingdom work, there is a corresponding heavenly action being taken.

Now John records what none of the other gospel writers record: that Jesus planned His works in heaven; that Jesus spoke to His Father in heaven, before He did any of the corresponding things on earth. And although John and the disciples were so upset when Jesus said "I must go to the cross", Jesus said, "don't you know that this was planned before the foundation of the world? This that is being worked out in earth and time has its heavenly correspondence in the eternal purpose of God?"

You want to know how Jesus had the confidence to walk to Calvary with that divine composure? He had just said with heavenly confidence, "Don't you know that this cup that I have been given, has been given by my Father to drink?" As He drinks the cup as it were in heaven, He bleeds on the cross on earth.

Now you understand, that is the reason that we can bind and loose things on earth, because there is a heavenly correspondence with those things we are asking here on earth. So let us look at a couple of things. I have run out of time, and here I am at chapter 1.

Chapter 1, let's look at some things. The first thing he saw was Jesus, this glorious Son of Man, this glorious Jesus was ministering not there on earth but at a heavenly tabernacle. And as he saw, he saw those seven lampstands and Jesus in their midst. Now suddenly for the first time, John saw the churches, but from the angle of the HPOV (Heavenly Point of View). John had worked among those seven churches for several years. He knew their flaws, their problems, he knew that some of the leaders were getting in the way of the Lord. He knew that the church had many spots and wrinkles and sort of things. And he saw the heavenly correspondence and the church is a pure gold lampstand.

Wait a minute, that is Laodicea. From Jesus' point of view, that is Laodicea. Pure gold. How could this be? You got to understand the picture here. Some of us are a little behind. You are still on the picture of the one lampstand and one tabernacle. But John immediately knew what this was a picture of.

When Solomon built the first temple, that is where Jesus was in the corresponding temple in heaven. I would give you a quiz but only the teenagers would know the answer.

How many lampstands were there in Solomon's temple? Ten. Five down one side, five down the other. Jesus is in the house of God, the one church, the temple of the living God, and He is seeing the individual lampstands of the individual churches.

I read a seminar paper by some rabbinical students of the Jewish faith. In their Jewish tradition, they knew the names of these artisans who actually hammered the ten lampstands in the temple. And they wondered and spoke this way: all of them were built, each lampstand, of one talent of gold. That is 7 pounds of gold. And the rabbi said that all of the lampstands were crafted by these artisans. Pure gold, but each one quite individual. Some the stands were a little longer, some a little fuller.

Tapping out a gold lampstand is not a scientific business. I know the Chinese will invent the machine where you put seven pounds of gold and you get a lampstand. And in Israel they would use it with a "made in China".

But each lampstand was a little different. Jesus loves His church. Don't you tell Him that it is not gold. He purchased that gold with His blood. He sees the church as done. Oh, how that should influence how we serve on earth! Some workers and elders are spending all their time beating their wood, hay and straw, instead of tapping the gold, silver and precious stones.

I don't know how to solve this mystery. How the church can be perfect from our Lord's point of view, and so imperfect from the earthly point of view. What an encouragement it must have been to John. Everytime some church on earth, like dear Smyrna, is threatened to be killed for their faith, it is the Lord tapping out the gold. All of the tribulations down on earth - the Lord is tapping out the gold.

Brothers and sisters, I know that when you look at your local church, you see a lot of stuff and wonder what is going on. But if you are a discouraged elder, or worker or sister, I want you to know this: God sees the gold in you, and it is precious in His sight. And you criticize the church at great risk. You don't know what you are talking about! You are seeing things as they are in the flesh and as of earth. You have not seen what the Lord thinks about the church.

I wanted to speak a lot more on that, but we don't have any more time. So let's do the last thing here and then we will stop.

The Lord sends an angel to John. He is overwhelmed now. He is an apostle of the gold church. You don't have to tell how much stuff came out of his life was wood, hay and stubble and not gold. The Lord knows how to throw away and the Lord knows how to tap in.

John says, "You know something? Those seven churches are going to be recovered. There are going to be some who hear the Word of the Spirit and repent, and stand as the bright testimony to Jesus!" That is worth more than a million bucks to any true servant of God.

But Jesus isn't through. Somebody says, "John, come on up". And John takes the elevator to heaven. I hope some of you get on the elevator to heaven. When John got up there, he sees an emerald throne with God on it. He can't quite see God, but he sees emanations of glory that are overwhelming. And he sees the angels worshiping and living beings and elders all about worshiping in this beautiful place called heaven. I want to be there! But in the midst of all the praising he looks at the throne and there is something, a scroll perhaps laying on the throne.

Once again the angel said, "who is worthy to open the scroll and unloose the seals thereof?" And John cried. Now he saw that the church was going to be recovered, it is gold, but what was going to happen to the world, to the universe, to everything? If the scroll of human history and destiny could only be opened!

Then somebody came and said, "John, look again." And out of the throne comes a lamb. Now John is the one who gave us the title in his gospel, the Lamb of God. And now he sees, "that is my Jesus!" Coming out of the middle of this whole shebang! And when he grabs the scroll, this eternal moment, John realizes that the world is going to be changed because it is in the hands of the Lamb of God.

I have got to admit, when everyone began singing, the singing is better than our singing this morning. But the punchline is at the beginning of Revelations 6:1 where it says, "then I saw the Lamb break the first of the seven seals".

Brothers and sisters, the destiny of your family, of the church, of the universe, of humankind, is being unfurled at this very moment. I ask you a foolish question: if you are a bondservant, in whose hands do you prefer to see the scroll of destiny? Of course you answer, "Brother Dana! Give him the scroll!"

No, no, no! Not even some great angel! No one is worthy. But there is somebody worthy. He doesn't even have to go grab it from somebody, because it is given to Him. He is so worthy. The Lamb of God is the Lion of Judah. My destiny is sealed. And so the cry is, "roll out the scroll and come, Lord Jesus!"

That's all we have time for. There are 5 more revelations of Jesus, but you can read the rest. There is an old gospel song: "I read the back of the book, and we win".

Brothers and sisters, please listen. I know you get discouraged. It is all in the hands of the Lamb of God. I think John, who was in his late 80s, came out looking like he was 60 years old. So

vivified had he been by this vision! So much had the resurrection life laid hold of John, just seeing this vision!

Are you jealous for such a vision? It is the context of your life, are you prepared to see? Are you prepared to lay down your life? There are many more wonderful things to see.

*O Lord Jesus, you are so gracious to unveil yourself to us here on earth. And even these symbols and revelations of the golden lampstands and the Lamb of God are only pictures of something so much greater. We just turn our eyes upon Jesus and look in His wonderful face, and the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.*