

Verse by Verse: Revelation 1:14-20

By Louis T. Talbot

[Musical Introduction]

Announcer:

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. half century old Christian training center of the West presents Verse by Verse with Dr. Louis T. Talbot Biola chancellor and one of America's great evangelical leaders. Now once again your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

And thank you Mr. Announcer. Good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot speaking and I want to assure you that all that I am as a sinner saved by grace. I do not know how great I am or how small I am, but I know that I am what I am, by the grace of God. And I want to thank you for the privilege of coming into your home with another study in the Book of Revelation. When I stepped into the studio a moment ago Jack MacArthur was just signing off and I heard him state something about meetings and the Garfield Avenue Baptist Church of Long Beach, and I guess that Jack is going to start meetings there in the near future. I'll have a word to say about that when I get some information before the broadcast tomorrow.

Now I want you please to open your Bibles to chapter 1 for a few moments and then we shall begin the study of chapters 2 and 3. These chapters that is chapters 2 and 3, those two

chapters are the second division of this book. Now just a word by way of introduction, tomorrow evening I am going to speak at the Fountain Avenue Baptist Church on the subject that should interest all of God's people. It is to be an illustrated address on what Christ has said about how this age is going to end religiously and I am going to deal with such movements as the ecumenical movements, and then the various cults that have come in recent, comparatively recent, years and have attracted literally millions of people and have gathered themselves, to themselves, A great number of followers. Now I make this announcement but not with a view of taking people away from their own prayer meetings. If you have a pastor who preaches the truth then your responsibility is to be present and support him by your presence and with your prayers. But if you have no church home I'd like you just make a note of the meeting tomorrow night in the Fountain Avenue Baptist Church; it is on fountain now than you. I'll give you the complete address tomorrow. But I'm going to deal with this very timely subject and put before you, whether you saw the stereoptic and slides, the heart of the teaching of some cults that are challenging the attention of thousands of people in this day, yours and mine.

Now I trust that all of you my friends are remembering the Bible Institute before the throne of grace as we endeavor to instruct more than 800 young men and young women, who form our student body, in preparation for service that are in all parts of the world. We want you to definitely remember the need for the memorial building that I made a reference to yesterday, and from time to time, because we have about 300 young men and young women that we are yet to house on the campus. But we cannot do it until we get these new, this new building, this Memorial building. And until we get it these young men and young women have to commute from downtown Los Angeles every morning and every evening. And it takes about, that is it's a journey of about 22 miles, and so that mounts up in a week doesn't it. It will be indeed a great joy

when all of our students are housed on the campus. And so you remember us in your prayers.

And when the Lord entrusts you with our little of this world's goods then you'll want to invest it in the lives of young men and young women who are going to the outer most parts of the earth.

Then you just drop a line to me here at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Los Angeles 17, California. If you would like some information in regard to Biola, in regard to the students, and anything in regard to the school life, if you have any questions that have come to you concerning the school if you will just write me, my dear friends, I'll give to your letter immediate attention.

And now we come to the study of Revelation, taken up where we left off yesterday. You will remember, my dear friends that we were studying yesterday the typical significance of the description of the Lord Jesus Christ as John saw Him stand in the midst of the seven Golden Lamp stands or candlesticks. You know then description begins with verse 14 and everything is very, very significant in regard to what is said here by the risen Christ concerning John's vision of the Lord in the glory. In verse 14 when John saw him we read that he saw His hair as white as snow. Speaking of course of great age and of course that statement identifies Him with the Ancient of Days in the 7th chapter of the Book of Daniel. And His eyes were as a flame of fire, speaking of the fact that nothing is hidden from His view. He knows all about us. He not only knows what we do but also the motive behind our actions. Then in verse 15 His feet were like brass which speaks the coming day when His enemies will be made His footstool, because brass in the Old Testament is always a symbol of judgment.

I'm just going over a little of what I gave to you yesterday just in order that your minds might be refreshed, and that we made up a connection between what we studied yesterday and what we had before us this morning. And then you'll remember that in that same verse, that is verse 15 and that the voice of the Lord Jesus was as the sound of many waters and of course that

speaks of power. I do not know whether any of you folks, many of you folks, have ever stood by Niagara Falls and watched that great torrent of water pouring into the abyss and the sound that it makes can be heard from a great distance. But what you see is a demonstration of power. And the Lord Jesus the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ is compared to something like that; that is the voice, His voice was like the voice of the sound of rushing water. And one day my dear friends that voice is going to speak and every grave is going to open, that dead shall be raised and the living shall be changed. And then voice is now speaking to men and those who hear it shall live and live eternally. Then in verse 16, He is said to have in His hand the Seven Stars, which speak of the Lord as the one who designates the Ministry of His people. He sends one to Africa, and one to India, and others to other parts of the world, and then he sends some folks to give a testimony here in the homeland.

Then in that same verse, verse 16, we read that His countenance was as the sun shining in the His strength. And when John beheld the person of Christ so described here and we read that he fell at His feet as dead. I want to look, my dear friends, at that verse 17, "and when I saw Him I fell at His feet as dead." You know that there is no record here that John ever got up. That is I think that right through this book of revelation that John was on his face at the feet of the Lord, Jesus Christ. And I tell you my dear friends that that's the best place to get anything from the Lord; if any of you folks do not know Christ and you have been great sinners and the sins of the past haunt you, I tell you that the very safest place, the best place that you can be is at the feet of the Lord, Jesus Christ. And if you want to get anything from God, my dear friends, that's the place for you to be. That is the best place to get anything from the Lord and I'm sure that you folks would say amen to that. But you know it doesn't say that John ever got up from that place. It says that he saw certain things, and that the angel carried him in spirit to another part, and to

another place, and he saw things; he saw the translation of the churches, we shall see when we get to the end of chapter 2. And then he saw the rise of the Antichrist on the great confederacy of nations; he saw the rise of Russia. He saw how that Russia and other nations are going to participate in being in the battle of Armageddon culminating with the heavens opening and the Lord Jesus Christ returning as King of Kings, and Lord of lords. Now John got that as he fell at the feet of the Lord Jesus. I think my dear friends, he stayed there on his face at the feet of the Lord Jesus, and these things went before him like a moving picture.

Now from here to the end of the chapter Christ is talking. Here The Lord tells us just who He is. You know there are a lot of folks in Los Angeles, There are a lot of folks in the churches that do not know who the Lord Jesus Christ is. But from verse 17, the Lord Jesus begins to tell you who He is. This entire chapter from verse 1 is to impress upon us the glory, and the honor, and the eternity, and the might, and the power, and the wonder, and the glory of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. You know no other man that ever lived has any right to be named side by side with the Lord, Jesus Christ. You remember the time of the transfiguration that Peter said "Let us make three tabernacles one for you and one for Moses and one for Elias." And when even Peter was lining up the Lord Jesus with those, with they even those men, great men of God, that the Lord God withdrew them to heaven immediately. And that was a voice that came out of that cloud saying "this is my beloved son, Here ye him." and my friends, all through this chapter 1 you have set forth the glory, and the honor, and the eternity, and the might, and the power, and the wonder of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ; He stands alone and the only one, the two that you can couple the Lord Jesus Christ with is the eternal Father and the eternal Spirit. He is God. He is the ancient of days and He stands absolutely alone.

Now look at verse 17, will you? "He laid His right hand upon me saying, fear not I am the first and the last and I am He That liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore." I want you to note that word dead; "I am he that liveth and was dead." And my friends we need to emphasize that because there is one of the cults that has a tremendous following, and I cannot give the name of that cult, although if I just entered into a little description of it all of you folks would know the cult that I had in mind. But there is this particular cult that says that the Lord Jesus Christ never died and they say that when he was on the cross he was just demonstrating that there was no such thing as death, and that pitying hands took him from the cross and they put him in a tomb thinking that he was dead. But he was not dead at all. And on the third day he came out of that grave to prove that he had never died. Well my dear friends you know that it is the Lord Jesus that says "I am he that liveth and was dead." I don't know if any of you folks are following a cult like that and if you are, my dear friends, you have to decide between the Lord Jesus Christ and what He said, and the founder of that cult and what she said because there is a liar here. That is Jesus said "I am a He that liveth and was dead." And yet my dear friends that there are millions of people that accept a lie like that, and they throw the lie right into the face of the Lord Jesus Christ because they say that he never died, and Jesus said "I was dead". Well I guess that all of you folks would say with me, "I believe the Lord Jesus Christ."

Now look at that verse 18 will you, again? "I am he that liveth and was dead and behold I am alive forevermore." and let me tell you that He had to be dead; He had to die to do what He says here; that is that great enemy of man is death, and Jesus says "I have the keys of death and of hades" and the only way, my dear friends, the only way that he could get the keys of death and of Hades was to go down into death and grapple with it. That great enemy of yours, and the great enemy of mine, that great enemy, my friends, the great enemy of man is death. And the destiny

of man is not only death, but also a hell. and the Lord Jesus Christ had to break the power of death to deliver us because we were under the power of death before the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to save us; and death there is a great power that fastens itself upon us because of our sins. And when death takes a hold of a man, unless he is saved, it never loses that grip on him. You know that every man who knows not the Lord Jesus Christ is in the grip of death, and if you die unsaved, my dear friends, death will continue to hold you and you will be held in the grip of death through all the eternal ages. But Jesus came into the world, and Jesus broke the power for all those who put that trust in Him, and He broke the power of the devil, who the power of death, and He broke the power of hell, and He broke the power of Hades. He said so here, look at this verse 18, He says, "I am He that live liver and was dead and behold I am alive forevermore," and then He says, "Amen; and have the keys of death, of hell and of death." and so my dear friends, that the Lord Jesus Christ has the keys of death and of Hades, or of hell, you know that we need not be afraid because the one who holds the key is your savior and mine.

I do not know what kind of keys Peter had. Sometimes I got questions in regard to the Keys were that Peter had. Well my dear friends, I'm not very clear in my own mind in regard to what keys Peter had. But I know what kind of keys the Lord Jesus has. I am not afraid of any keys that Peter holds, but I am glad that in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ is the key that unlocks death and unlocks Hades; unlocks hell. And that no power, and that no power now can stand against the Lord Jesus Christ. You know my friends that the Lord Jesus as the eternal Son of God had to sit there in heaven during all the Old Testament days and see men die, die, die in their sins. And He couldn't stand it anymore and you said to the Father He says, "I must go down there and redeem men" and the Father says "go." and the Lord Jesus Christ went, and down, and down, and down He came and He emptied Himself of all of His uncreated glory and He became

obedient under death, even the death of the cross, and my dear friends, He did it in order to redeem you; and to get a hold of you and break that power that held you; the power of death and the power of Hades. And He came out of the grave and before He went back to Heaven, My dear friends, He had broken the power of death and He had robbed the grave of its power, and hell of its victory. And He had opened everything, and we are not afraid now. And in His hands are the keys of death and of hades and the years got the keys of the grave as well.

Well you might say, "Well, Mr. Talbot, I was just out in Forest Lawn and I saw the body of how about dear, when a man maybe a father, or a mother, or a little child, lowered into the grave and that little body was buried, and how can you say that Jesus has the keys to the grave?" I want to tell you, my dear friends, that little body that you saw lowered into the grave was not buried at all. You know Paul speaks of this in discussing the resurrection; and the resurrection of the body and the burial of the body. He does not say that the body was buried and one day is going to rise, he says that was sown. He says it's sown in weakness that shall be a raised in power. It was sown; a natural body it's going to be a raised a spiritual body. I like that word sown, don't you? You know folks look upon Forest Lawn and another cemeteries as being a burial place. My friend as far as a child of God is concerned those cemeteries are not burial places at all, what they are is a field.

I think I mentioned this some time ago but I'll mention it again. Have you ever seen a farmer, my dear friends, going out in the field? He doesn't go out to a burial place he goes to a field. How he starts sowing out the corn and the wheat. And you know that that corn is sown. And if you ask the farmer just what he is doing, "oh," he says, "I'm sowing this and that's going to come up again." And when the sun comes out and warms the Earth, you'll see the earth begin to give away; up comes the corn and it comes up more beautiful, and more fruitful, and more

glorious than it ever was. And that's exactly what the apostle Paul had in mind when he said to the Corinthians that the body is sown in weakness; my dear friends, it's going to be raised in power. And just as the corn comes up when the Lord Jesus Christ comes, my dear friends, He is going to put the key of death into every grave; and the grave shall open and the dead shall be raised, and the living shall be changed. And when we get into heaven my dear friends, we're not going to be just embodied spirits. We're going to have a body that is going to be made liken unto His glorious body. My, my, but when the Lord comes, my dear friends, when the Lord Jesus Christ comes what a disturbance there will be in the cemeteries.

Some little time ago I went to give the funeral address, conduct the funeral service, of a dear man of God that had listened to this radio program for a long time. And the wife said to me just before the service she said, "Mr. Talbot I trust that after the service, this service when we go to the cemetery that you'll be able to stay with us at the open grave for about an hour." And I says "Why is that you're going to stay there for an hour?" Well she said, "We want to see the body of my loved one buried and then we want to wait until the Earth has filled the grace, and then the flowers placed on top." She said, "You know that we do not like the idea of just leaving it at that time." I said, "My dear friend," I said, "that that is not necessary." I said, "Do you know that there is one who is going to remain right by this grave? He is going to hover over it. He is going to watch over it until the time comes when He shall put in the key, and open that grave, and the body comes forth and all of its glory." And I said why this place, this spot, where the body of your loved one is buried, is very, very precious to the Lord." and I spoke to her about that second verse of the first chapter of Genesis where it says concerning the chaotic Earth, "and the Spirit of God brooded over the face of the waters." And I said that "the Spirit of God will brood over this grave and you must leave it, even though your wait for the hour you will have to

go and leave it anyway. But," I said, "there is one who never leaves it and there is one who was brooding over it and just waiting for the time when the last member will be added to the body of Christ. And then He is going to put in the key and He is going to unlock it, and the body shall rise, indeed." And my dear Friends, when you think of your loved ones in burial places, you remember that they're only there until the Lord Jesus Christ comes, and when He comes He has the keys of death and of Hades. He has the keys that's going to unlock every grave of the precious dust of the dead in Christ. Do you believe that, my dear friends?

And you know that there is something else my dear friends about these keys; "I have the keys of death, and I have the keys of Hades." You know I have an idea, my dear friends, in regard to that statement of the Lord, "I have the keys of death." I have an idea that that includes this: that if you and I live in the center the will of God you'll never go out in this world, you'll never go to heaven until He puts in the key. "I have the keys of death and of Hades." You know sometimes we think that the Lord Jesus Christ is a little ahead of time in putting in the key that that opens death. That is opens the door to allow one to go into heaven. For instance, when you have a little child 5 and 6 years of age just being in the home for a little, just a little space of time and then the Lord takes them. We sometimes think, you know, that the Lord is a little ahead of time. and then when we see a man 90 years of age with a body that has been wrecked with pain, we sometimes think, my dear friends, that the Lord Jesus is a little behind the times in putting in the key. But let me tell you this: He is never ahead of time and He is never behind Time, He's always on time. And I do not believe that I, Louis T. Talbot, will ever go through the gates of death until the Lord Jesus Christ puts in the key. And when He puts in the key, my dear friends, we'll leave this body. I will, and you will when the time comes for you to leave the body, and you will find yourself, my dear friends, in the Lord's banqueting house. But the time will come

when that grave will, that contains the precious dust of the dead in Christ, shall be opened; He has the keys of death.

I'm not getting very far in this study. This morning I want to get into this chapter 2. But we'll spend, my dear friends, the next five minutes, the next four minutes that is on this verse 19, will you? Then the Lord says this, He says, "Write the things which thou are seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." Let me say, my dear friends, that that is the division of this book and it's the division that was given by the Lord Jesus. Now the things that John had seen are in Chapter 1; and the things which are, are in chapters 2 and 3, which gives you the history of the church from beginning to the end; and then the things that shall come to pass hereafter, Begin with chapter 4 and go right on to the end of this book. And the things that shall immediately take place after the church is translated are in this book of Revelation beginning with chapter 4. I want to say to you, my dear friends, that a lot of men have tried to make other divisions of the book of Revelation; but those was other divisions just simply don't stand investigation. No other division is possible. Jesus has given to us the division of the book of Revelation. "Write the things which thou has seen," That's the vision of Christ and we have already had that. And then the things which are, that is the present existing things, and that is in chapters 2 and 3; and then the things that shall come to pass hereafter. You put a little circle around that verse 19, my dear friends, and you will never be at a loss to understand the book of Revelation.

Now there is one other thing that I want to point out and that is in verse 20; and it is, "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." Now He says that there is a mystery connected with

this; and we'll see in our study tomorrow, my dear friends, just what this mystery is in connection with those seven stars and also with a seven Golden Lamp stands. But I want to just say another word, I touched on this a few days ago, but I want to say another word about those stars. He says "and the Seven Stars, which thou sawest in my right hand" and so on. You know that men and women who become prominent on the stage and in the moving picture business are called Stars. But I want to tell you, my dear friends, that there are very few stars among them. If you want to know who the stars are, you don't go to the stage to find out; the stars are in the pulpits, the stars are the missionaries, the stars are men and women who are around preaching the Word of God. They are the stars. I don't know what you'd call the other folks, my dear friends. I think that all the folks that you have in Hollywood that are called stars, they are really fireworks. You know that there's a difference between a firework, a firecracker, and a star. You know you can get some of these fireworks, you know, and they spin for a little while and they look very, very wonderful and then they go out. But you have look at the heavens, my dear friends, you don't see any of God's stars, the stars up there, you don't see them going out. I want to tell you they have been there ever since God put them there, and you know that they're going to be in God's universe all through the eternal ages. And when God speaks of stars, my dear friends, He speaks of those who turn many to righteousness. And we're going to shine forever, and ever, and ever.

Well thank you for listening, this has been rather a jumble. My mind hasn't been operating this morning very, very well but I think that we'll get on the track tomorrow morning. Goodbye and God abundantly bless you all.

[Musical Outro]

Announcer:

You've been listening to your radio Bible teacher Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. Address all mail to Dr. Louis T. Talbot 558 S Hope Street Los Angeles 17, California.