

**Bereans Bible Institute**  
**Module VIII – The Christian Assembly**  
**Lesson 02 – Passing the Torch**

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I. The 'Light of the World' *Menorah*

- A. Jesus was the "Light of the World" as long as He was in the world – John 9:5
1. Jesus trained His Apostles for their upcoming mission after His departure to the Father's right hand.
- B. The Apostles were the "Light of the world" after Jesus' ascension – Matt. 5:14
1. After His ascension, Jesus continued to communicate with His Apostles from heaven via the "holy Breath" throughout the apostolic age.
  2. The Apostles trained elders/pastors in the local assemblies to carry on after their deaths, to lead, and to teach the next generations the Christian Faith unchanged.
- C. Just before their deaths, the Apostles passed the torch (light) to the local assemblies (cf. 2 Timothy, 2 Peter, etc.).
- D. Jesus Himself sent seven letters dictated from heaven through the holy Breath to seven local assemblies, illustrating the new Christian order where each local assembly answers directly to Christ without Apostolic oversight.
1. Just before John's death, Jesus appeared to him personally in a vision, showing Christ Himself walking among the local assemblies (Rev. 1).
    - a. Jesus said "*where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them*" (Matt. 18:20).
    - b. Jesus said He would be with His followers "*unto the end of the age*" (Matt. 28:20).
  2. The Seven Letters to the Local Assemblies in Revelation 2-3
    - a. Jesus observes and judges each congregation as a whole
      1. Jesus threatens to remove the 'lampstand' (light of the world) from the Ephesian assembly (Rev. 2:5).
      2. Implications for every local assembly & its relationship with Christ as the head.