

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Revelation 1:9-20: A Picture of the Eternal Son

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Last week, we discussed the authorship of Revelation; an introduction to the timing of the events, rapture, and Millennial Kingdom; and the Focus of the Book, Jesus Christ.

Rhyme: Revelation Chapter 1: A Picture of the Eternal Son

Matthew 3:11: "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

**<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the affliction, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."**

**We are still to worship in spirit and in truth –John 4:24  
Active engagement of the church with the Holy Spirit  
is a spiritual expectation.**



John was suffering for the LORD, and THIS is where God met him “in the Spirit.” The early church was Spirit-filled, empowered, and led. We should all be in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day! As some have noted, and as I certainly believe, John – chosen apostle; of Jesus’s inner circle; anointed at Pentecost by the Holy Spirit – was the unique person Jesus Christ chose to honor with this prophecy.

Think about all that John has seen: the earthly ministry of Jesus; the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord; the ministries of the early Church including the grafting in of the Gentiles through the ministries of Paul and others; the deaths of his brothers in Christ; so much more!

He now lived in the time of Domitian, a notorious emperor who apparently ruled against both Jews and Christians alike. Domitian was so unpopular, even among his own people, that he was eventually assassinated in his own palace. Before this could take place, however, John was cast aside on the Island of Patmos (“criminals” against Rome could be executed, exiled, or enslaved).

Tertullian, said that John was miraculously saved by God from burning oil; perhaps, then, Domitian viewed exiled as the only available punishment for the elderly

apostle. But John, in the Spirit, was triumphant – just as we should be! For: “This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:5).



John's vision was quite clear – he was to record Jesus's direct message on a scroll and send it to seven regional churches. John was very familiar to these churches: there would have been some associated trust that this message was authentic and true.

It is my belief that these seven churches represent all churches of all time. I do not, however, subscribe to the idea that each church represents a separate age. Instead, I believe these churches could all be found in a particular city or region, and that some churches today may be a combination of several of the Revelation churches.

In any case, we can confidently believe the following:

- 1) Jesus personally addresses individual churches, and He notes the condition that the churches are in.
- 2) Jesus's message was intended *for* the Church. We should not ignore it, conceptualize, or subject it to allegory. It is a direct and real message from the Lord.
- 3) It is written with absolute authority, the clarity of the Trumpeted Voice.

**12** Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me. When I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, **13** and among the lampstands was one like the Son of Man, dressed in a robe and with a golden sash wrapped around his chest. **14** The hair of his head was white as wool—white as snow—and his eyes like a fiery flame. **15** His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading waters. **16** He had seven stars in his right hand; a sharp double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was shining like the sun at full strength.



John, who had leaned against Jesus at The Last Supper, turned and saw "one like the Son of Man." David Hocking notes, "This is no ordinary look at the man we know from the gospel as Jesus Christ. To say that His appearance is unique is also an understatement: it is supernatural, a glorious description that could be given to God alone."

This is Jesus: the One who spoke the world into existence; the One prophesied after the Fall of humankind; the One who lived a sinless, selfless life; the One of absolute truth; the Messiah; the King; Lord of all lords; King of all kings; the Resurrected Christ. *That* Jesus.

Hindson notes at least thirty-three designations of our Lord in the Revelation of Jesus Christ: ten are in this chapter alone:

- 1) Jesus Christ.
- 2) Faithful witness.
- 3) First-born of the dead.
- 4) Ruler of the kings of the earth.
- 5) Alpha and Omega.
- 6) He who is and was and who is to come.
- 7) The Almighty.
- 8) Son of man.

- 9) The first and the last.
- 10) The living One.

Robe with Golden Sash – High Priest; Authority.

Hair White as Wool – Wisdom; Righteousness.

Eyes Like Fiery Flame – Clear View of Churches.

Feet as Bronze – Judgment.

Voice as Cascade of Waters – Absolute Authority.

Double-Edged Sword – Powerful Truth; Soul-Rendering.

Face Shining as Sun – Brilliance; Holiness; Majesty.



Hindson states: “The grandeur of this description points to the majesty, purity, and authority of the One described. This is the risen Savior. This is the glorified Christ. This is the coming King!

High Priest: Hebrews 7:26

Wisdom: James 1:5

Clarity: Romans 8:27

Judgment: 2 Corinthians 5:10

Authority: Matthew 9:6

Truth: John 14:6

Holiness: Exodus 15:11; 1 Peter 3:15

**17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid. I am the First and the Last, **18** and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades. **19** Therefore write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this. **20** The mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.



Verse seventeen is incredible: the one who had walked, slept near, witnessed miracles of, cared for His mother, and was given a Gospel, a ministry, and multiple letters – *this* guy – fell at Jesus’s feet “like a dead man.”



2 Chronicles 5:14  
John 18:5-6  
Matthew 17:6  
Acts 9:3-4  
Ezekiel 3:24  
Numbers 22:31  
Ezekiel 43:2-3  
Ezekiel 44:4  
Daniel 10:9

“Then I said: Woe is me for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies.”  
-Isaiah 6:5



Other instances in Scripture note the same reactions when confronted by the Holy, Almighty God.

Jesus comforts John, and then reminds Him of who He is:

- 1) The First and the Last.
- 2) The Living One, though formerly dead.
- 3) The One who holds the keys of death and Hades.

Then Jesus gives John the explanation of this part of the vision:

- 1) The seven golden lampstands are the seven churches.
- 2) The seven stars are the angels of the churches.

Jesus also reminds John to write what was, what is, and what will take place after this. It is the time: Jesus wants His church to know the vision (contrast with Daniel 12:4-9, in which the vision was sealed for a time).

**“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.” –Matthew 16:18-19**

Jesus spoke of what was (the commission of the church); what is (the seven churches and the ecumenical church); and what is to come (the future judgment in Revelation 20:11-15).



The Church has always been God’s chosen instrument to carry out the Gospel. Just as the Levites were specially set aside for God’s service, the Lord Jesus first chose His apostles and then His Church to spread His message. That message is of Christ, it is for Christ, and it is about Christ. And that Christ chose in His Revelation to speak to His chosen vessel, the Church.

“Christian community means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. There is no Christian community that is more than this, and there is none that is less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily community for man years, Christian community [the Church] is solely this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*).

This is the message for us. We are His. Questions to ask ourselves:

- 1) Are we in the Spirit of the LORD’s Day, and every day?
- 2) Are we overwhelmed by His holiness?
- 3) Are we using the gifts He has given us - together? (Note *Divine Design*).



**Ephesus; Smyrna; Pergamum; Thyatira;  
Sardis; Philadelphia; Laodicea**



The seven churches we will talk about next week are intriguing, incredible, and imperfect.