

Rev 1:4-11 (NIV)

- 1) Under the Spirit here simply means under the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - a) In this condition, one is transported to a vision state for want of a better term and allowed to see things beyond our normal senses.
 - b) Peter and Paul as well as Ezekiel had these “in the Spirit” experiences.
- 2) Throughout the book of Revelation, a loud voice or sound indicates the seriousness of what is being said.
- 3) Here, the voice is also described as being “like a trumpet” which indicates divine command.
- 4) This meaning is not new to scripture

Ex 19:16-19 (NIV)

- 5) John is told 12 times throughout Revelation to “write what you see”.
- 6) Here, he is told to write it on a scroll and to send it to seven churches.
 - a) Notice – John makes no reply.
- 7) The seven cities appear in the order that a messenger, traveling on the great circular road that linked them, would visit them.
 - a) From Patmos, the messenger carrying the writing would sail to Miletus. After landing at Miletus, they would have traveled north to Ephesus (the city nearest to Miletus)
 - b) Then in a clockwise circle to Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and finally, Laodicea.
 - c) Copies of the scroll would most likely have been distributed to each church.
 - d) Of note also is that these seven churches were in the key cities of the seven postal districts into which Asia was divided.
 - e) As such, they were the central points for disseminating information.

Rev 1:12-13 (NIV)

- 1) As we said a moment ago, a loud voice or sound indicates the seriousness of what is being said – the trumpet divine command / authority.
- 2) I think I would turn around too!
- 3) The first thing John sees is 7 golden lampstands which he will soon be told represent the 7 churches
- 4) John uses the term “like a son of man” which is a quote from Dan 7:13.

Dan 7:13-14 (NIV)

Revelation – NOTES – 2021

- 5) This is the same phrase – “son of man” – that Jesus used on many occasions to refer to himself.
 - a) Ezekiel = 93 times
- 6) Jesus adopted the phrase from Daniel chapter 7, a passage that summarizes a theme that runs throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - a) It’s about the hope for a new humanity who will finally realize the ideal purpose that God has for them.
 - b) This phrase could be a short study all unto itself.
- 7) John then describes the son of man’s clothes as a long white robe and the golden sash.
- 8) This apparel is indicative of the supreme high priest.
- 9) He continues his description in vs. 14

Rev 1:14-16 (NIV)

- 1) To begin, white from our symbol definitions indicates purity in this case.
- 2) Additionally, MacArthur points out that the Greek word translated as white here has the connotation of “bright,” “blazing,” or “brilliant.”
- 3) Combined, it symbolizes Christ’s eternal glorious holy truthfulness.
- 4) The exact same phraseology was used in Dan 7 to describe God the Father which affirms Christ’s deity.

Dan 7:9 (NIV)

⁹“As I looked,
“thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.

- 5) Next John describes the speaker’s eyes – “flames of fire.”
- 6) We will see this phrase used other places as we proceed thru this study.
- 7) Christ sees all. His gaze penetrates the depths of the person and in this case as we see the very depths of the churches he is addressing.
- 8) We read in Hebrews 4,

Heb 4:13 (NIV)

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Revelation – NOTES – 2021

- 9) Next, John describes his feet as being of bronze glowing in a furnace and a voice of rushing water.
- a) In ancient times, kings sat on elevated thrones. One reason for this was so that all being judged were beneath the king's feet.
 - b) In this way, the king's feet came to be recognized as authority.
 - c) Joseph Seiss comments about this description:

He once said, through Isaiah, "I will make the place of my feet glorious" (Isa 60:13). But here we have the feet themselves, those feet with which he is to tread down the wicked; and the description corresponds with the rest of the picture. Christ is all-glorious, even to his feet. They are like glowing brass-like brass in the fire heated unto whiteness. The glory of this metal, in such a state, is almost insufferable to the human gaze. It presents an image of pureness which is terrible. And it is upon these feet of dreadful holiness that our Lord walks among the churches, and shall tread down all abominations, and crush the antichrist, and Satan, and all who unhappily set aside his authority and his claims.

10) John describes his voice as attention getting to say the least.

- a) NIV uses rushing water.
- b) Other translations use terms like "many waters", "great waters", "raging waters"
- c) The Living Bible says – "thundered like the waves against the shore"

11) Finally, John says

and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

12) Regarding the sharp double-edged sword, Hebrews 4 tells us:

Heb 4:12-14 (NIV)

13) As for the brilliance of the sun – ever buy a telescope or look at the instructions for one?

- a) One of the first things you will always see is instructions to the effect "NEVER look at the sun thru the telescope" and some might even add a caution about looking at the sun directly – NEVER DO IT!!
- b) Why – because it is so bright that it can literally damage your eyes beyond repair!
- c) Christ is that brilliant "bright" to John's eyes.
- d) We should remember that the brightest light other than the sun that these folks knew about was a candle, torch, or perhaps a very large bonfire.

14) If we think of the Christ who walked the earth 2000+ years ago, the Jesus that John knew and loved.

15) As you have thought thru the years about Jesus ascending and setting at the Father's right hand **Was it the Jesus that was human or was it this glorious Jesus?**

What do you see as a summary of the main difference?

16) Perhaps, John did not recognize them as being the same though he had seen something similar if not exactly like it before.

Matt 17:1-8 (NIV)

Rev 1:17-18 (NIV)

- 1) Throughout scripture, those brought face-to-face with the blazing, holy glory of the one true and living God are terrified, realizing their sinful unworthiness to be in His holy presence.
- 2) Summarizing the proper response to God's holiness and majesty, the writer of Hebrews exhorts believers to "offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:28-29).
- 3) Though John was in awe and fear of the magnificent vision of his God, Jesus was still Jesus – loving and comforting.
- 4) Jesus' words to John here are a testimony to the everlasting God – the eternal.
 - a) Again, the first and the last – without beginning and without end.
 - b) The Greek phrase for I was dead is actually "I became dead."
 - c) The eternal living God took on human form and died but again is alive forever.
 - d) MacArthur says of the final statement here:

"Keys denote access and authority. Jesus Christ has the authority to decide who dies and who lives; He controls life and death. And John, like all the redeemed, had nothing to fear, since Christ had already delivered him from death and Hades by His own death."