

Passage: Revelation 1:9-12

Title: Turn to See

Summary: Today passage John will hear the voice of God, and then “turned to see” the wonderful revelation of Jesus Christ. The Shepherds in Bethlehem “turned to see”, the Wise Men from the East “turned to see”, and Moses in the wilderness “turned to see”; and to all that did, they were gifted a deeper revelation of God. Today’s study, we get to “turn and see”.

Revelation 1:9–20 (NKJV) ⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Revelation 1:9 NKJV) I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Exiled

1:9. John received this wonderful revelation of Christ while he was an exile and a prisoner, not for any guilt of his own but because of his faithful proclamation of God’s Word and his determined witness to Christ. This witness he shared with others who were enduring persecution and distress but who remained under the rule of Jesus with a steadfast patience. The presence of Jesus enabled him and them to bear up under Roman persecution.

Patmos is a rocky, treeless, 10-mile-long island, about 60 miles southwest of Ephesus, and about 40 miles from the mainland (of Turkey). John may have been sentenced to hard labor in the quarries.

His Testimony

John relates himself as our fellow companion. We know John is there because He would not renounce Christ, the One whom he rested his head on at the last supper, heard the not just the heartbeat of God, but the heart that beat for him, and once you know that heart, hear that heart, nothing and none of these things will move you.

But a word, words in RED:

Matthew 10:32–33 (NKJV) ³² "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Consider this as well, John's testimony was not just for Jesus, as it was for the testimony of other prisoners who were banished to the island as well. Christianity is hated at this time, and sometimes to be a Christian would have felt like you were on an island, and here are some literally on an island for being Christians. When John showed up, when other Christians showed up, John's 90 year old, sagging skin from age and placed in cauldron of oil, maybe forced into hard manual labor, John's witness would have brought comfort to others, and strengthened them to not yield to renouncing Christ, but that He was worth it.

We talk about quenching the Holy Spirit, but as I reflected on John, and asked the Lord to strengthen and make me like steel, I reflected on how swords and spears and knives are made. The kind that last in the battle, they don't break in the fight, they are not just shiny and for show. They get heated to a blazing red hot state in the red hot coals of the fire, then they get pounded by a heavy hammer into the shape they are design for, and that cycle goes back and forth over and over many multiple times, heating and pounding and pounding and heating, over and over again. Then when the blacksmith feels it is right and ready, he (with his tongs) takes the handle end of the steel and fully immerses the blade into a cauldron of oil, the method is called quenching, and it literally changes the properties of the elements of the iron and alloy, into the hardened steel that we know it has.

John went to the beating and pounding and the fire over and over, and little did the devil, what they final outcome was, not a quenching of the Holy Spirit, but a quenching of steel, that would be a testimony not just to the 7 churches, but every Christian on that island, and not just to every Christian on that island, but to every Christian in this room and listening to this audio.

Those other prisoners, saved and unsaved, would see a man who was steeled in his faith, and be encouraged, and no doubt many came to faith when they finally saw that there was something worth living for greater than the world could offer, and the world could not take away. So too for you Christian.

(Revelation 1:10 NKJV) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

A Special Lord's Day

1:10. The "Lord's day" may mean Sunday, but this verse more probably means that the Holy Spirit projected John into the future Day of the Lord that is ahead of us. While experiencing this special move of the Spirit, a voice came like a trumpet blast.

I pray for you today beloved in the Lord. I pray that you have a special Lord's day, not just today, but any and many days. Not just a Sunday, but a Monday and a Tuesday..... and every other day. A Day where you are in the Spirit, so sensitive to Him, that you can hear His very voice, and very Word, that He wants to speak to you and a Word that He gives you to speak to others (like a 7-Churches).

Even if you are on Patmos.

(Revelation 1:11 NKJV) saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Greek Speaking

1:11. The loud voice John heard was the voice of Jesus, again proclaiming himself as the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last. The churches in the Roman province of Asia were Greek speaking. They would understand the use of the Alpha and the Omega to mean the beginning and the end and at the same time to mean His eternalness. As the first, He is the most prominent and more important in God's plan. As the last, He will never be replaced. No other messiah will ever take His place. No one else will

ever be King of kings and Lord of lords after Him. His throne will be eternal. All others who claim to be Christ or Messiah are false. Jesus himself warned against them. He also gave the assurance that He will come suddenly. Thus, if anyone claims to be Messiah or Christ or a manifestation of Jesus, and believers are still on the earth, they can know that person is a false christ (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

John was not only to hear but to see and to write what he saw in a book, probably meaning on a roll of writing material made from the inner bark of the papyrus reed grown in the marshes of Egypt. Once the book was complete he was to send it to each of the seven churches of Asia.

Alpha and Omega is Greek, and the churches in Asia (Turkey) would have spoke Greek not Hebrew. These are predominately Gentile converts, not Hebrews from Israel where Hebrew was the predominate language. Beloved, God speaks a language we understand, and He want us to understand it clearly, because He wants to REVEAL Himself to you, not just a little, but deeply and greatly.

Listen, don't ever think or buy into the lie of the carnal and fleshly that God doesn't speak. He will speak to you and He will lead you and guide. And when He does, it will always align with the Word of God. He will give you a scripture to confirm and go along with the Word He speaks to you. In John's case we will read over and over confirmation and aligning to the OT. So too God will speak and align His Word to you to lead you and guide you.

Here are one of the many references to the OT in the Book of Revelation. Many people are not into the OT, but the better your knowledge of the OT, the better your understanding of Revelation will be. Daniel will be referenced 53 times, Exodus 27 times, Jeremiah 22, Psalms 43, Ezekiel 42, Isaiah 79, and Zechariah 15. Of the 404 verse in the book of Revelation, we will make reference or allude to over 550 OT verses (obviously duplicating several verses).

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Verse 11 - and, "What you see, write in a book – I love this, a little nugget to me that brings my strength and remembrance. Where in the world does and exiled prisoner on a rocky forsaken island come up with not just enough ink and parchment to write a letter, but to write a whole book! Only by the God-Who-Provides, the Great I Am, the Becoming One who will provide to you all you need to do His will.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Genesis 22:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Exodus 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

What is your need Christian, what may be holding you back from doing what God has called you to do? See Patmos, see an ink bottle and a parchment, and know God will provide to you as well and the same, and then step out to do what it is you have been called to do.

Note on Geography of 7 Churches

The order in which they are named is geographical. On the map they appear in a sort of circular progression. Ephesus, in Lydia, was the chief city of the Roman province of Asia, and the church there was established by Paul. Smyrna was a beautiful city on the Mediterranean coast about 45 miles north of Ephesus. Pergamos, the ancient Pergamum, modern Bergama, was the most important city of Mysia and was once the ancient capital of a wealthy kingdom. It was about 70 miles north of Smyrna. Thyatira, founded by Macedonian Greeks, was about 40 miles southeast of Pergamum on the Lycus River in Lydia. It was a busy industrial city noted for the dying of purple cloth. Sardis, the ancient capital city of Lydia, was a very wealthy city because of trade and the manufacture of textiles, dyes, and jewelry. It was about 30 miles southwest of Thyatira.

Philadelphia (which means "love of brothers"), in Lydia, was about 30 miles east-southeast of Sardis and was a center of Greek culture. Laodicea, in Phrygia, had a large colony of Jews and was about 50 miles southeast of Philadelphia.

(Revelation 1:12 NKJV) Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
(Revelation 1:13 NKJV) and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Jesus in Midst of His Church

1:12. When John turned to see whose voice it was that was speaking to him, the first things he saw were seven golden “lampstands” (NIV). These were seven separate lampstands, not the seven-branched lampstand made by Moses (Exodus 25:31–37). These lampstands represented the seven churches of Asia which had just been named. The gold speaks of Christ in all His deity and glory, for the Church is the body of Christ. The olive oil burning in the lamps typifies the Holy Spirit. Thus, even though persecuted, the seven churches still had the power of the Spirit and the light of Christ to give to the world.

John Heard – he Turned / Reminded of Others

When John heard a voice behind him, he turned to see what it meant. And in this, I am reminded of other who “turned to see the voice that spake with them.”

Luke 2 / It's Late – Long Day / But They Went

When an angel appeared to them, telling them to go to Bethlehem, the shepherds could have said, “Forget it. It's the middle of the night. Why go to Bethlehem now?” I've had a long day of work, it is checkout time with a little television. They could have said I don't have time to turn aside, I got my profession to take care of, we don't have time, we got to get to work. But they didn't. They went. The shepherds turned aside to go investigate what they had just heard. And they ended up rejoicing (see Luke 2).

***Luke 2:15 (NKJV)** ¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”*

Matt 2 / Lives on Hold – 2 Year Journey

When they saw a star they'd never seen before, the wise men could have been discouraged to embark on the nearly two-year journey. They turned aside from their lives, they put their life on hold to go investigate. But they got on their camels, set out across the desert—and ended up worshipping the King of kings (see Matthew 2).

***(Matthew 2:1 NKJV)** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,*

***(Matthew 2:2 NKJV)** saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”*

Striking Parallel - Moses

We have a striking parallel in the Old Testament, Moses at the burning bush. Hey I'm retired, not by choice really, I was driving out of the land, I failed in all my ways, it is best I just stay on the backside of the desert, and just be quiet so no one remembers my fails of the past.

***(Exodus 3:1 NKJV)** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*

***(Exodus 3:2 NKJV)** And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.*

***(Exodus 3:3 NKJV)** Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”*

What Things – Death & Resurrection / We Believe – Lord wants to Show Again & Again / New

***(John 21:1 NKJV)** After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:*

After what things, this was written after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus showed Himself again, after these things, and they were impacted by Jesus. We believe the crucifixion, we believe the resurrection, but gang, the Lord wants to show Himself over and over again to give us a fresh revelation of Himself. To give us personal direction, to show Himself to us again, and again, and again.

John 21:1 / Again & Again

Jesus wants to show Himself to us again, and again. Christian there is always way more to see!

(John 21:1 NKJV) After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

After – There is Always More!

IN the Spirit

John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and this just doesn't mean Sunday:

(Revelation 1:10 NKJV) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

John Sensitive to Spirit / That's when we will Turn Aside / Take every Situation

John was in the Spirit, John was sensitive to the things of the Spirit. John was in the Spirit, and it is when we are in the Spirit that we will look into the things of God. It is there that we will take every situation in our lives and be listening, looking, asking:

- Why am I here,
- What is it that you want to show me Lord.
- The songs that I am singing, what do they mean to me, what am I expressing to you.
- These words that I am reading, what do you want for me or from me.
- Maybe you are hearing the Lord call you back to that special time when you would meet Him early in the morning, a special day of the week when you fasted.
- A ministry you were involved in.
- Maybe it is a personal sin, just a little one, but God calls out to you about it. When you do, and it is dealt with, you will have a new revelation of Jesus because you now see Him more clearly, and the freedom from that sin revives you as you experience a new freedom.
- It is us saying Lord I know you are speaking to me about this or that, what is it Lord, as we turn and investigate, praying through till we are clear on His will, seeking power to do whatever it is.

Lord Wants to Guide Life / To be Exciting / Not just Know it - but Encounter It / Word - Flesh

Christian, the Lord wants to guide your life by revelations, he wants your life to be exciting. The danger we can fall into is that we know the Bible, I've read it, can quote it. It is good that we know it, but God doesn't want us just to know it, He wants us to encounter it, for He is the Word that became flesh.

Life that Count / That we Turn and See

I believe all of us want our life to count, so when we hear the Lord calling, may we investigate the matter, turn aside to see what the Lord has for us. That we would turn and see and say Lord what will you have for me today. Lord I want revelation from heaven, I want to be guided and directed by you. Lord give me the courage to turn and see, that I might have a renewed revelation of you. That I might be revived again, and again, as you show yourself again to the disciples. That we would make that 5 mile journey to Bethlehem.

(John 21:1 NKJV) After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

(Revelation 1:13 NKJV) and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

The Church Needs Know Jesus is in the Midst

1:13. The seven churches needed to know that Christ was still in their midst as their compassionate High Priest and conquering King. The attention here is not on the churches, however, but on Jesus in the midst. The Book of Revelation is first and foremost a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is described as "one like unto the Son of man." This is another example of the use of Old Testament language in the Book of Revelation. The phrase identifies Jesus with the One prophesied in Daniel 7:13. This Jesus, whom John saw, is the triumphant One who will come to receive "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him" (Daniel 7:14).

His clothing indicated both priestly dignity and royal office. The garment or long tunic was like that worn by priests and kings. The belt or band of pure gold around His chest (see Daniel 10:5) was a mark of triumphant royalty in contrast to the worker or servant who wore a belt of cloth or leather about the loins.

Christ, the King-Priest identified as Jesus by the Book of Hebrews, is now at the right hand of the Father interceding on the believer's behalf (Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 John 2:1).

Communion Celebration

In all the accounts, there are just ever slight differences. They are not contradictions, they are all words that were spoken, but the hearer, recounts the words that spoke to them personally, penetrated their hearts specifically. There is no direct mention of the institution of communion in the Book of John, though the Last Supper and the words spoken are very detailed for us (John 13-17). However to me, the last words spoken by the Lord before departing to Gethsemane are very revealing to me regarding communion (oneness and fellowship), as that is what the picture of communion represents, our oneness and fellowship together as a body (church), and our oneness and fellowship with the Lord. Lets read the Lord's prayer for us, and then take communion with each other and Him.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Matthew 26:26–29 (NKJV) ²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Mark 14:22–25 (NKJV) ²² And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²³ Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. ²⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Luke 22:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

John 18:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. ² And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples.

John 17:20–26 (NKJV) ²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

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Gospel / If You Were to Die Tonight

Personal

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Problem

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Penalty

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Provision

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Profession

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Recognize

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Repent

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Receive

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.