

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION 13

### The Vision of the Risen and Glorified Christ

**I. Text (Rev. 1:9-20 NKJV)** <sup>9</sup>*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.* <sup>10</sup>*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,* <sup>11</sup>*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."* <sup>12</sup>*Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,* <sup>13</sup>*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.* <sup>14</sup>*His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;* <sup>15</sup>*His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;* <sup>16</sup>*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.* <sup>17</sup>*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.* <sup>18</sup>*"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.* <sup>19</sup>*"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.* <sup>20</sup>*"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.*

**II. In verses 13-16, John sees the glorified Christ and gives a description of the Son of Man.**

A. In the vision, the Son of Man is standing in the midst of seven golden lampstands which represent the churches (v.12, 20), which are lights in a dark world.

1. (V.12) <sup>12</sup>*Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands.*

2. (V. 20) *the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

B. He is clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

1. (v. 13) <sup>13</sup>*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.*

2. SFLB "The clothing of the Lord symbolizes priestly royalty".

C. His head and hair are white like wool, as white as snow

1. (v. 14a) <sup>14</sup>*His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow.*

2. The white hair speaks of His Deity. (Dan. 7:9, 10 NKJV) *"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.*

D. His eyes are like a flame of fire.

1. (v.14b) *and His eyes like a flame of fire;*

2. Again, His eyes like a flame of fire speaks of His Deity, eternity, and wisdom. (Heb. 12:29 NKJV) <sup>29</sup>*For our God is a consuming fire.*

E. His feet are like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace.

1. (v.15a) <sup>15</sup>*His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace.*

2. Some Bible commentators believe that (Dan. 10:5, 6 NKJV) is a description of an Old Testament appearance of Christ to Daniel. <sup>5</sup>*I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! <sup>6</sup> His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.*

3. Listen to this commentary from Rick Renner. "In Revelation 1:15, "brass" is the word for *bronze* or *something that is brazen*, such as the brazen altar or the brazen laver used in the Old Testament — and it always indicates *judgment*. The fact is, we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ one day. It's also a fact that if we don't choose to live right in this life, we will suffer the consequences of our choices and actions. But in this verse, where it says that John sees Jesus' feet as brass, we need to remember that before John mentioned Jesus' *feet*, he described His *priestly garment*. John knew that before Christ would stand in judgment of the seven churches (and of His Church at large throughout the ages), He would first stand

as their High Priest, continually interceding for them to overcome every challenge in order to fulfill God's purposes."

There is something else about Jesus' feet, described as "like unto fine brass," that's important to understand. The translation of the original word for "brass" is interesting because it's used in only one other place in the New Testament. It's the Greek word *chalkolibanon*, a compound of the words *chalkos* and *libanos*. The word *chalkos* describes *an alloy of copper, mixed with either tin (bronze) or zinc (brass)*— and the word *libanos* is the Greek word for *frankincense*. But because there's no such thing as an alloy of bronze *and* frankincense, this seems at first like a very strange word for John to use. However, when we remember that Christ first appeared as High Priest — and that priests used frankincense in their priestly ministry — the meaning becomes clear. Although Christ was coming with the potential of judgment, His feet of judgment had been bathed in frankincense. In other words, *because Jesus did not want to judge His Church, even His judgment was bathed in prayer!*

F. His voice as the sound of many waters.

1. (v. 15b) *and His voice as the sound of many waters.*

2. (Ezek. 43:2 NKJV) <sup>2</sup> *And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.*

3. (v.10) also says that His voice is like a trumpet. <sup>10</sup>*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet.*

4. What a majestic voice John heard!

G. He is holding seven stars in His right hand.

1. (v.16a) <sup>16</sup>*He had in His right hand seven stars.*

2. The **seven stars** represent the pastors or messengers of the churches.

3. (v. 20) *The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.*

a. The Strong's concordance sheds some light on the meaning of the word that was translated in angels in verse 20.

b. **Strong's:** to bring tidings; a messenger; especially an "angel"; by implication a pastor.

c. The pastors of the churches are being held in His right hand which "connotes being sustained and protected" (SFLB), and guided.

d. The context of the passage reveals that the angels referred to here are the seven pastors of the seven churches in Asia. We will go in more detail about this in a later message.

H. A sharp two-edged sword proceeds from His mouth.

1. (v.16b) *out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.*

2. SFLB The two-edged sword is His Word.

3. (Heb. 4:12 NKJV) <sup>12</sup>*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.*

I. SFLB The description of the Lord's countenance suggests indescribable glory and majesty.

1. (v.16c) *His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.*

**III. This passage demonstrates that Jesus, since His resurrection, has been glorified with the glory that He had with the Father before the world was created.**

A. As the second Person of the Trinity, Jesus dwelt in glory with the Father from eternity past.

1. (John 17:5 NKJV) <sup>5</sup>*And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

B. Although He never ceased to be Divine, Jesus laid aside His glory when He came into the world to live as a man in order to die for our sins.

1. (Phil. 2:5-7 NKJV) <sup>5</sup>*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,* <sup>6</sup>*who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,* <sup>7</sup>*but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

2. (Phil. 2:5-7 AMP) <sup>5</sup>*Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]* <sup>6</sup>*Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained,* <sup>7</sup>*But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.*

C. The Father glorified Jesus momentarily on the Mount of Transfiguration as a witness to the disciples that He was God's Son.

1. **(Matt. 17:1-6 NKJV)** <sup>1</sup>Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; <sup>2</sup>and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" <sup>6</sup>And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

2. Peter later wrote of this experience in **(2 Pet. 1:16-18 NKJV)** <sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup>For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

D. Now that He has suffered for us and been raised from the dead, He exalted to the right hand of God and glorified with the glory that He had with the Father before the world began.

E. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a witness to us that Jesus has been glorified.

1. **(John 7:37-39 NKJV)** <sup>37</sup>On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup>"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." <sup>39</sup>But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

2. The Spirit was given only after Jesus was glorified.

3. **(Acts 2:32, 33 NKJV)** <sup>32</sup>"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup>"Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

F. His glorification is the guarantee of our glorification.

1. (Col. 3:1-4 NKJV) <sup>1</sup>*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

2. (Rom. 8:16, 17 NKJV) <sup>16</sup>*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*