

# FIRST AND LAST

## REVELATION 1:9-18

### SERMON OUTLINE

Three resurrection pictures — which do you picture?

- The garden: Mary at the tomb, Jesus says her name
- The upper room: disciples terrified; 'Peace be with you'
- 30 years later: John falls flat like a dead man (Rev. 1)

### CENTRAL QUESTION

*"What if those resurrection pictures are only part of who the risen Jesus is?"*

### 1 — Who's Talking?

- John on Patmos — Roman prison colony; old, exiled, suffering
- God's pattern: showing up in the hardest places
  - Moses: desert, burning bush
  - Elijah: burnt out in a cave
  - Paul: letters written from prison

### Romans 8:38–39

*"Neither death nor life...nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

### KEY TRUTH

*John was in the worst place of his life when Jesus showed up. He'll do the same for you.*

### 2 — What Does He Look Like?

*Eight details — every one intentional:*

- Robe & sash — priestly & kingly; all authority (Matt. 28:18)
- White hair — eternity; the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7)
- Eyes like fire — sees all; yet still loves you (Ps. 139)
- Feet like bronze — through the cross furnace; unmovable
- Voice like a waterfall — cuts every competing voice
- Stars in hand — the church; held securely (Jn. 10:28–29)
- Sword from mouth — word cuts to the soul (Heb. 4:12)
- Face like the sun — unfiltered glory; John falls face-down

### KEY TRUTH

*Not a historical figure or seasonal symbol — a living, ruling, glorious King who was dead and is alive right now.*

### 3 — What Does He Say?

#### Revelation 1:17–18

*"Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever."*

- "Don't be afraid" — the hand holding the stars reaches down to touch you
- "First and Last" — history isn't random; there at start and end (Isa. 44:6)
- "The Living One" — present tense; alive right now; sets Christianity apart
- "I hold the keys" — keys = control; death had its shot. It lost.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

#### SECTION 1 — SETTING THE SCENE

John writes from \_\_\_\_\_, a Roman \_\_\_\_\_ colony.

He's isolated, old, and \_\_\_\_\_.

God has a pattern of showing up in \_\_\_\_\_ places.

#### SECTION 2 — EIGHT DETAILS OF GLORY

White hair = not age, but \_\_\_\_\_.

Eyes of fire: nothing is \_\_\_\_\_; yet he still \_\_\_\_\_ you.

Bronze feet: came through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the cross,

unmovable and \_\_\_\_\_.

Stars in his hand = the \_\_\_\_\_, held \_\_\_\_\_.

His voice cuts through every \_\_\_\_\_ voice.

His face = like the \_\_\_\_\_ at full strength.

#### SECTION 3 — WHAT HE SAYS (REV. 1:17–18)

"I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_."

This means history is not \_\_\_\_\_.

"The Living One" is \_\_\_\_\_ tense — alive \_\_\_\_\_.

He holds the keys of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Keys = \_\_\_\_\_. Death had its shot. It \_\_\_\_\_.

### ANSWER KEY

S1: Patmos • prison • suffering • hard

S2: eternity • hidden • loves • furnace • undefeated • church • securely • competing • sun

S3: First • Last • random • present • right now • death • Hades • control • lost

*He is the First and the Last. He was dead. And look—He is alive.*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

First and Last • Revelation 1:9–18

## WHO'S TALKING — Context & Exile

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1. John received this vision while exiled on a prison island — not during a peaceful moment. What does that tell us about when and where God shows up in our lives?

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2. Think of a time God met you in a hard or unexpected place. What was that like?

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## WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE — Eight Details

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3. Of the eight details in John's vision, which one hits you hardest — and why? (robe, white hair, eyes of fire, bronze feet, voice like water, stars in hand, sword from mouth, face like the sun)

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4. The eyes of fire mean Jesus sees everything about you and still isn't turned away. Is that comforting, unsettling, or both?

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5. Contrast the gentle Easter pictures you've seen with this overwhelming vision. How does seeing both change how you understand who Jesus is?

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## WHAT HE SAYS — Four Declarations

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6. "Don't be afraid" — three words spoken to a man flat on the ground. What is something in your life right now where you need to hear those words?

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7. Jesus says "I hold the keys of death and Hades." How should that truth change the way you think about death — your own and people you love?

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8. The sermon ends: "Will you believe it? Will you let it change everything?" What would it look like daily to actually live like the risen Jesus is reigning right now?

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

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9. Today's lesson speaks to three types of people: the longtime follower, the person circling the faith, and the person carrying something heavy. Which one describes you right now?

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10. What is one specific thing from this sermon you want to carry with you this week?

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**My takeaway:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*"Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One.*

*I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever." — Revelation 1:17–18*